

Archie
COMICS

NO.1

US\$2.00
CAN\$2.50

SONIC vs. KNUCKLES



47021

BATTLE ROYAL

48 PAGE SPECIAL!



Turtlewing
Productions
Kaifuu.Com

SPAZ & PEPOY

SONIC vs. KNUCKLES™

BATTLE ROYAL



"BATTLE ROYAL!"

Kent Taylor & Ken Pender-Writers, Sam Maxwell-Penciler,
Jim Amash-Inker, Karl Bollers-Colorist, Jeff Powell-Letterer

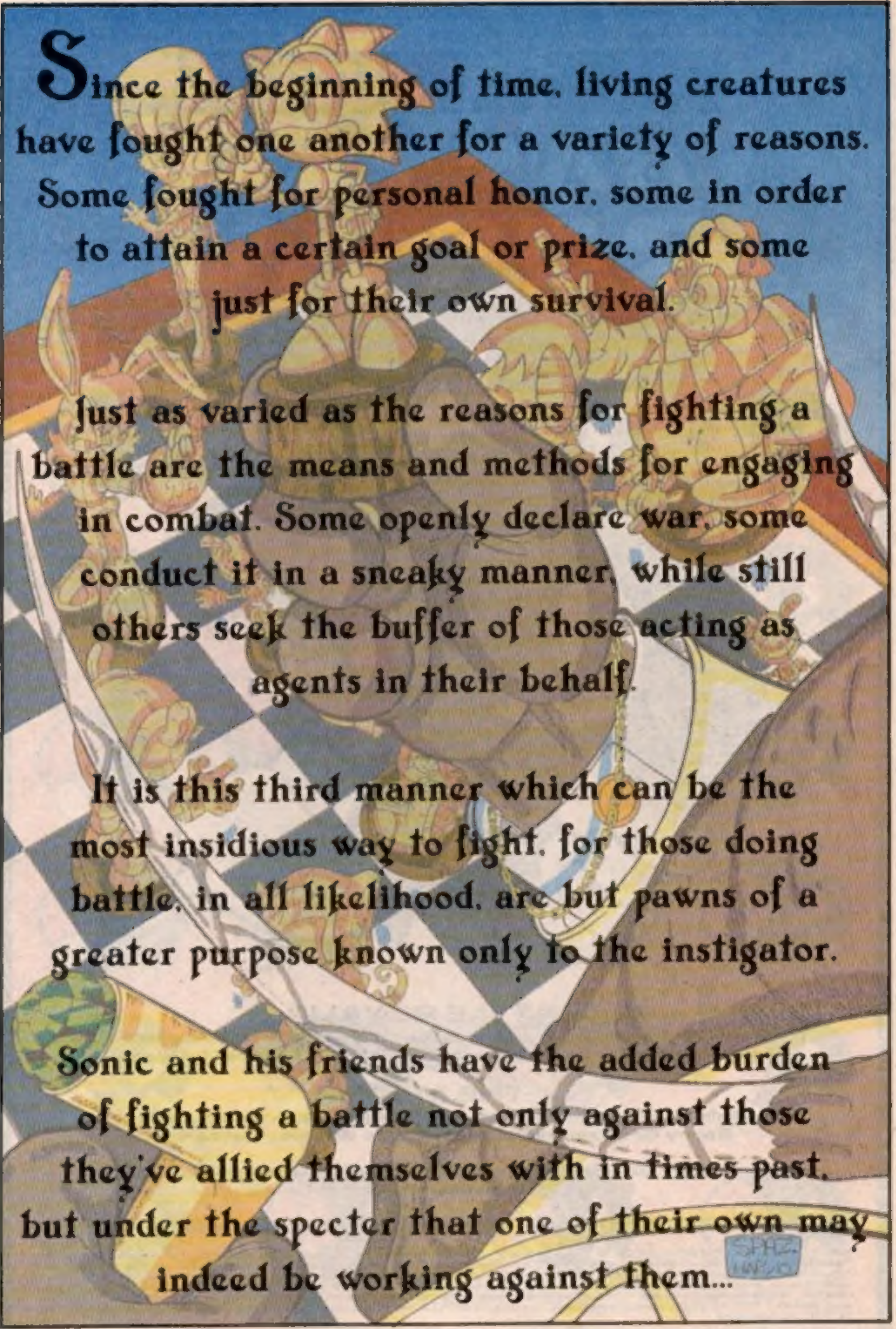
"THE MAP"

Tom Rolston-Writer, Dave Manak-Penciler, Rich Koslowek-Inker,
Barry Grossman-Colorist, Vickie Williams-Letterer

J. Freddy Gabrie-Editor, Victor Gonetek-Managing Editor,
Richard Goldwater-Editor-in-Chief

SPECIAL THANKS to Susan Burrez and Helen B...

SONIC VS. KNUCKLES "BATTLE ROYAL" SPECIAL, No. 1, 1997. Published by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10643. Richard L. Goldwater, President and Chief Officer, Michael J. Silberstein, Chairman and CEO, and John Zolner, Jr., Vice President, are trademarks of SEGA. Q 1997 Sega of America, Inc. All rights reserved. Use with permission. Title registered in U.S. Patent Office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC VS. KNUCKLES "BATTLE ROYAL" SPECIAL, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10643. Printed in Canada.



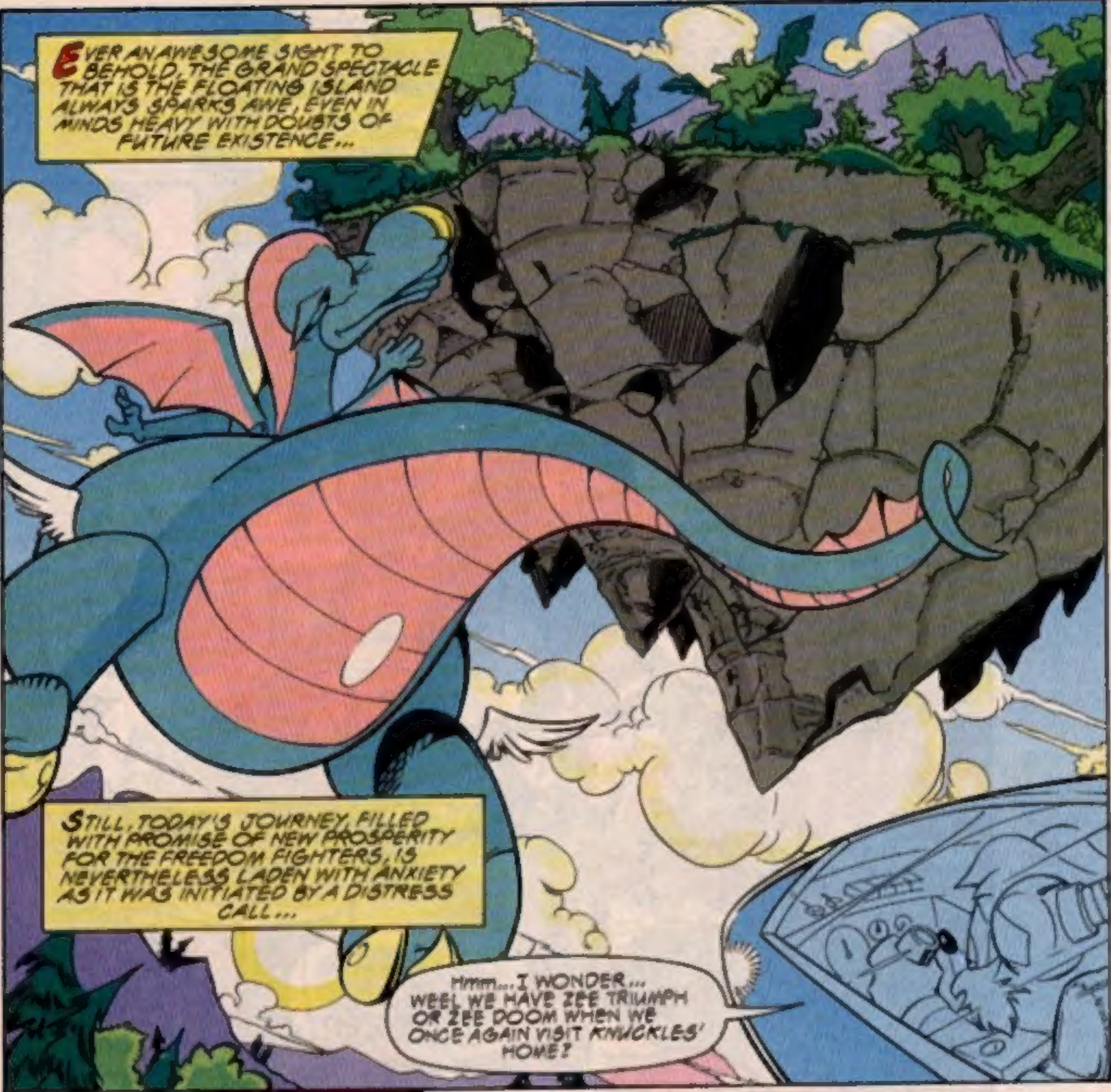
Since the beginning of time, living creatures have fought one another for a variety of reasons. Some fought for personal honor, some in order to attain a certain goal or prize, and some just for their own survival.

Just as varied as the reasons for fighting a battle are the means and methods for engaging in combat. Some openly declare war, some conduct it in a sneaky manner, while still others seek the buffer of those acting as agents in their behalf.

It is this third manner which can be the most insidious way to fight, for those doing battle, in all likelihood, are but pawns of a greater purpose known only to the instigator.

Sonic and his friends have the added burden of fighting a battle not only against those they've allied themselves with in times past, but under the specter that one of their own may indeed be working against them...


SPAZ
1/1/20



EVER AN AWESOME SIGHT TO BEHOLD, THE GRAND SPECTACLE THAT IS THE FLOATING ISLAND ALWAYS SPARKS AWE, EVEN IN MINDS HEAVY WITH DOUBTS OF FUTURE EXISTENCE...

STILL, TODAY'S JOURNEY, FILLED WITH PROMISE OF NEW PROSPERITY FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, IS NEVERTHELESS LADEN WITH ANXIETY AS IT WAS INITIATED BY A DISTRESS CALL...

HMM... I WONDER...
WEE! WE HAVE ZEE TRIUMPH
OR ZEE DOOM WHEN WE
ONCE AGAIN VISIT KNUCKLES'
HOME?



C'MON, ANTOINE! IT
CERTAINLY SOUNDED LIKE
GOOD NEWS WHEN ROTOR
ARRIVED AT OUR CAMPFIRE
POW WOW* TO TELL US KNUX
WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HIS
QUEST!

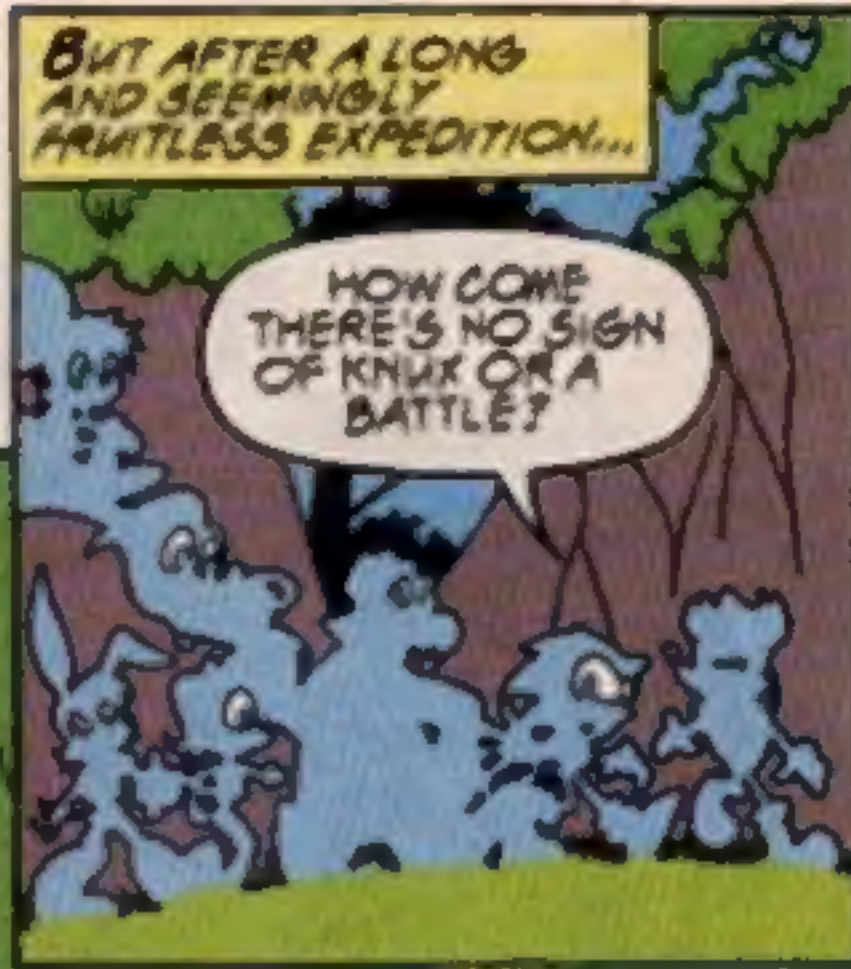
*THE "POW WOW" AND RETRIEVAL
OF KING ACORN'S SWORD
HAPPENED IN SONIC 46. --J-MOT



UNFORTUNATELY, KNUX'S RADIOED MESSAGE ALSO SAID THE ISLAND WAS UNDER SIEGE...



...AND AFTER ALL HE'S DONE FOR US, THE LEAST WE OWE HIM IS A LITTLE SUPPORT!



BUT AFTER A LONG AND SEEMINGLY FRUITLESS EXPEDITION...

HOW COME THERE'S NO SIGN OF KNUX OR A BATTLE?



BATTLE ROYAL

PART ONE

Dulcy The Dragon

Tails

Princess Sally Acorn

Sonic The Hedgehog

Rotor

Antoine D'Coolette

Bunnie Rabbet

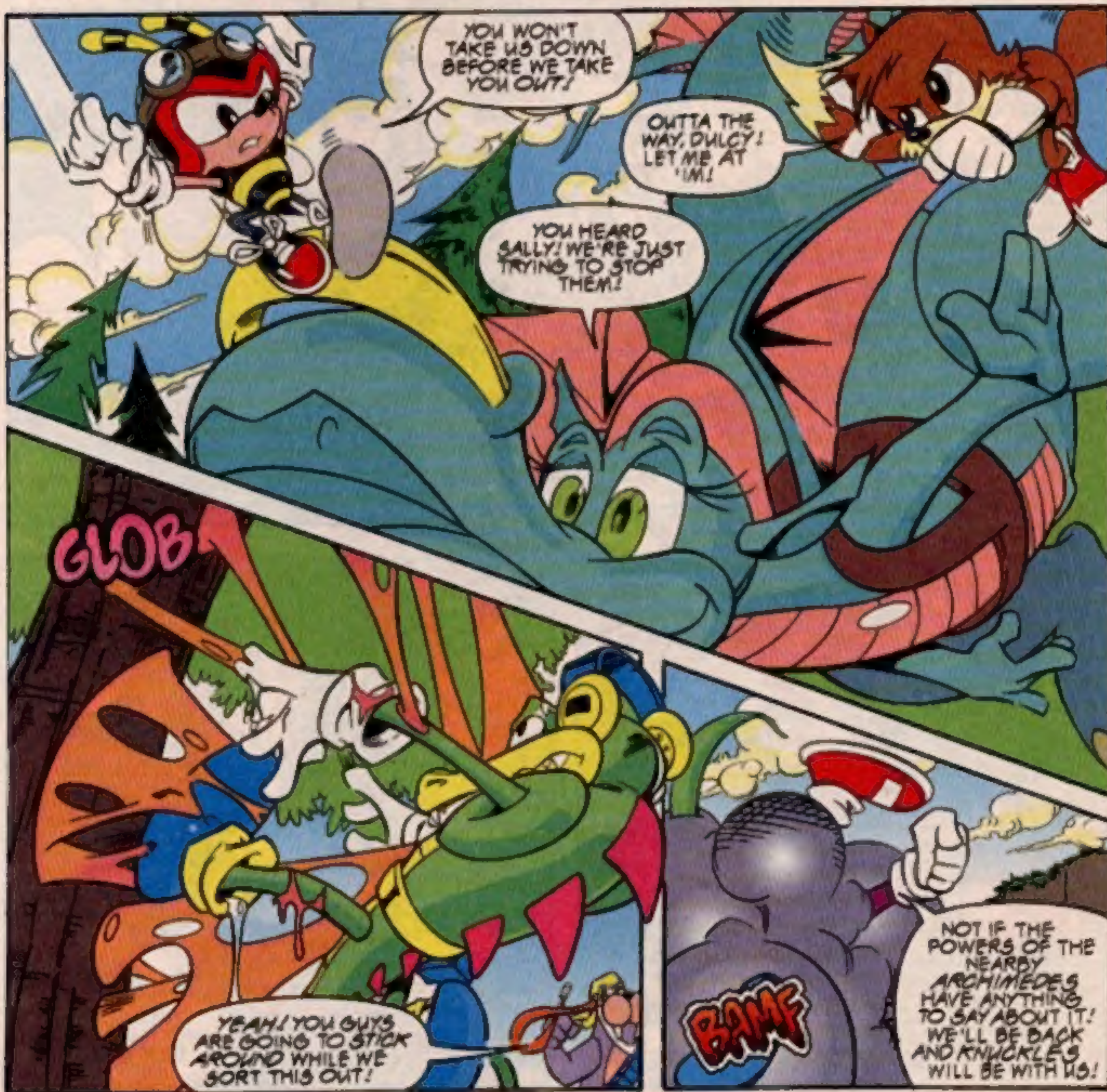
THAT'S CAUSE WE JUST FINISHED DEFEATING OUR ENEMIES... THANKS TO THE MYSTIC POWER OF THE KING'S SWORD!

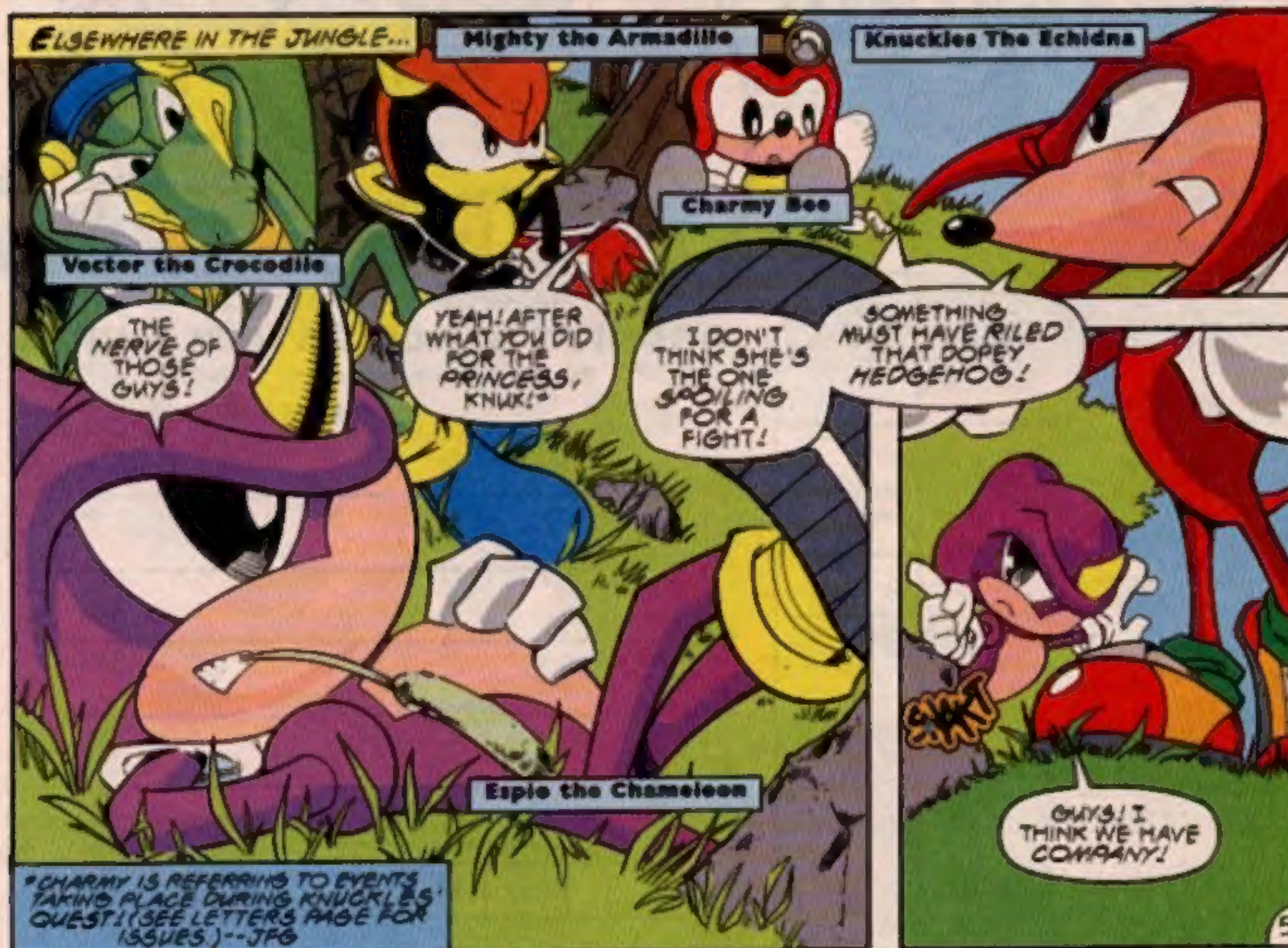
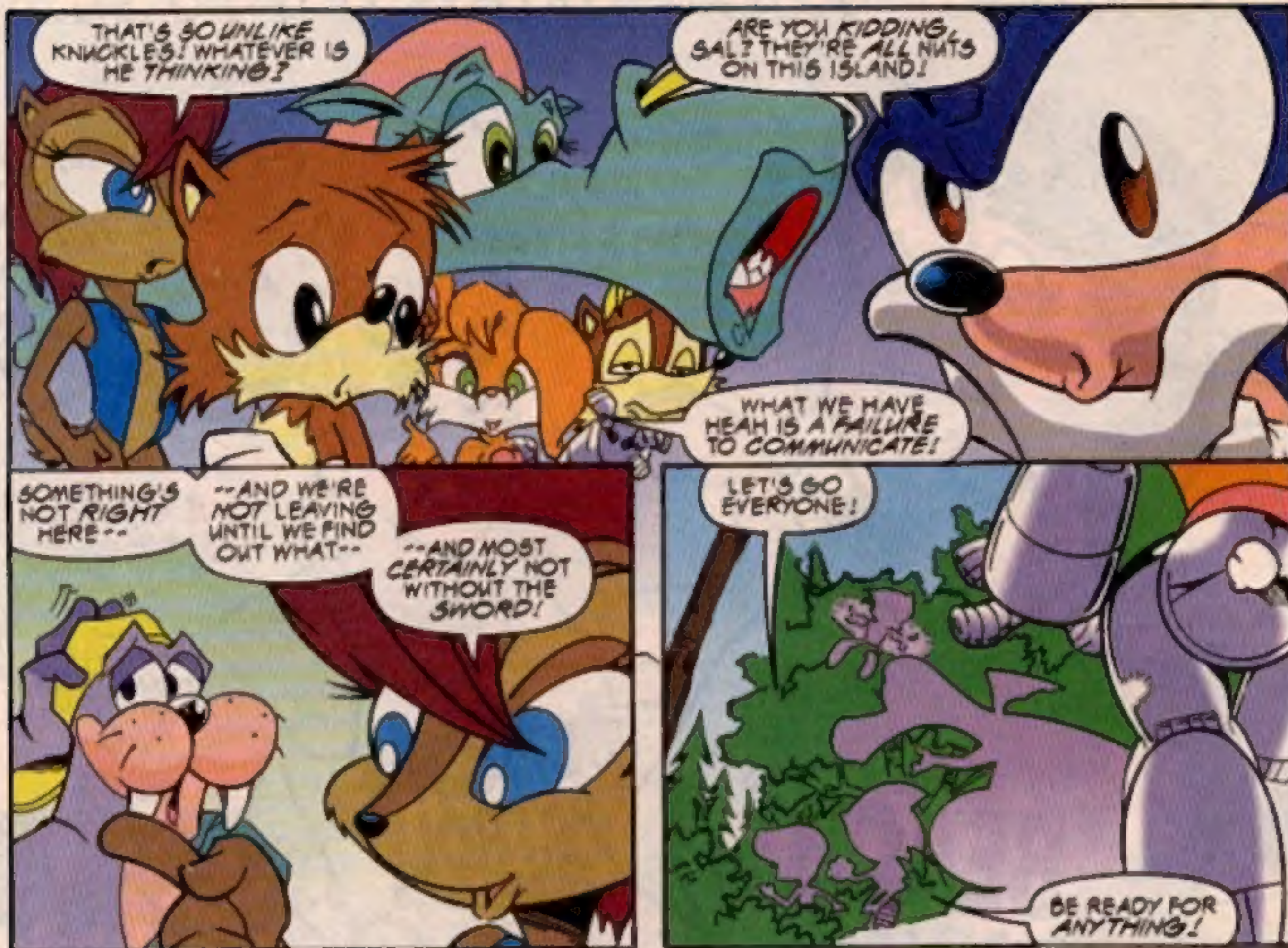
IN FACT, IT WAS SO SWEET WE'VE GOT ORDERS FROM KNUX TO SEND YOU PACKIN' WITH-OUT IT!

BUT... WHAT ABOUT KNUX'S SOLEMN VOW?

VOW, SHMOW! LOOKS LIKE WHAT I'VE ALWAYS SAID IS STILL TRUE-- OL' POINTY HEAD CAN'T BE TRUSTED!

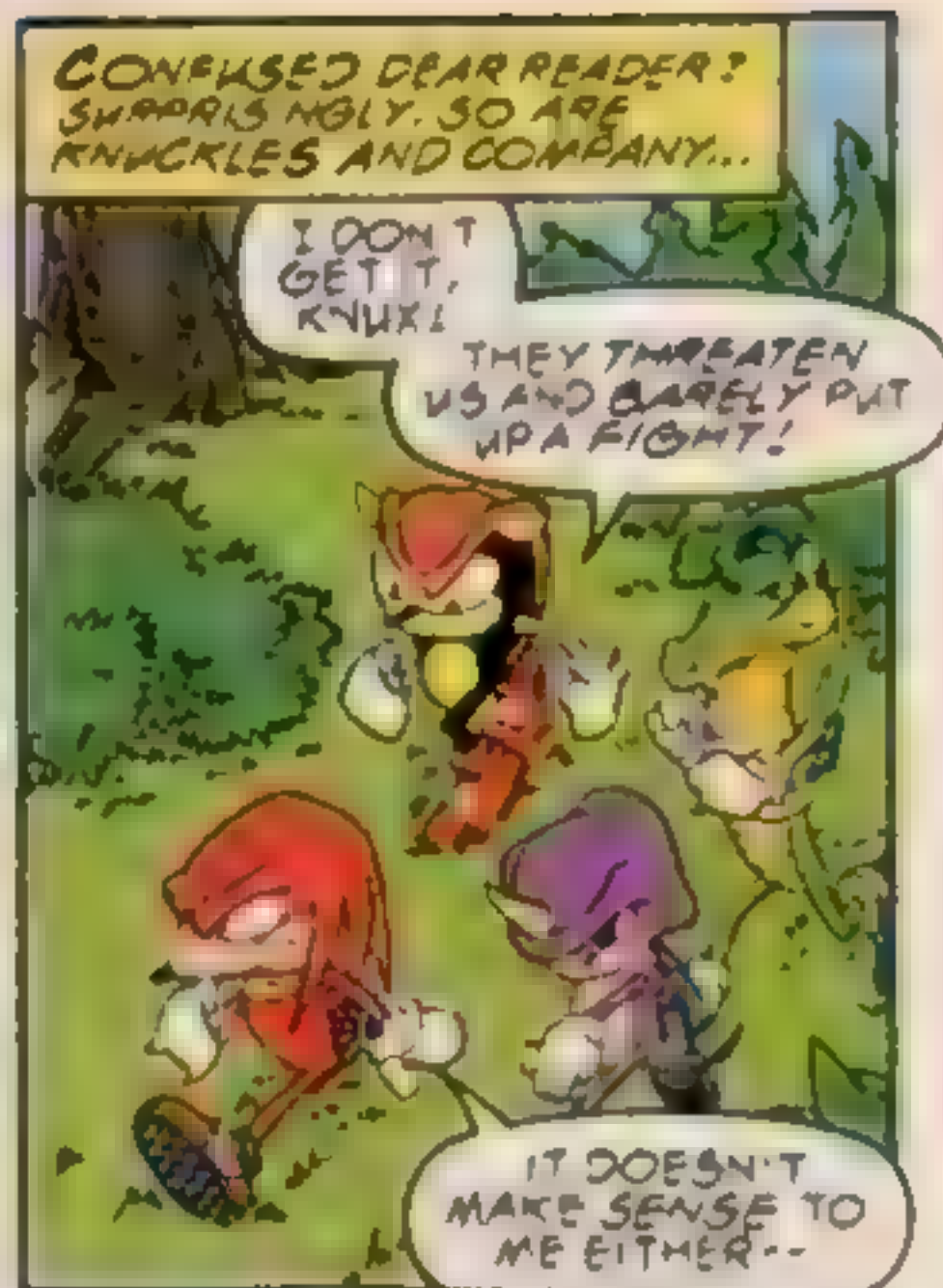




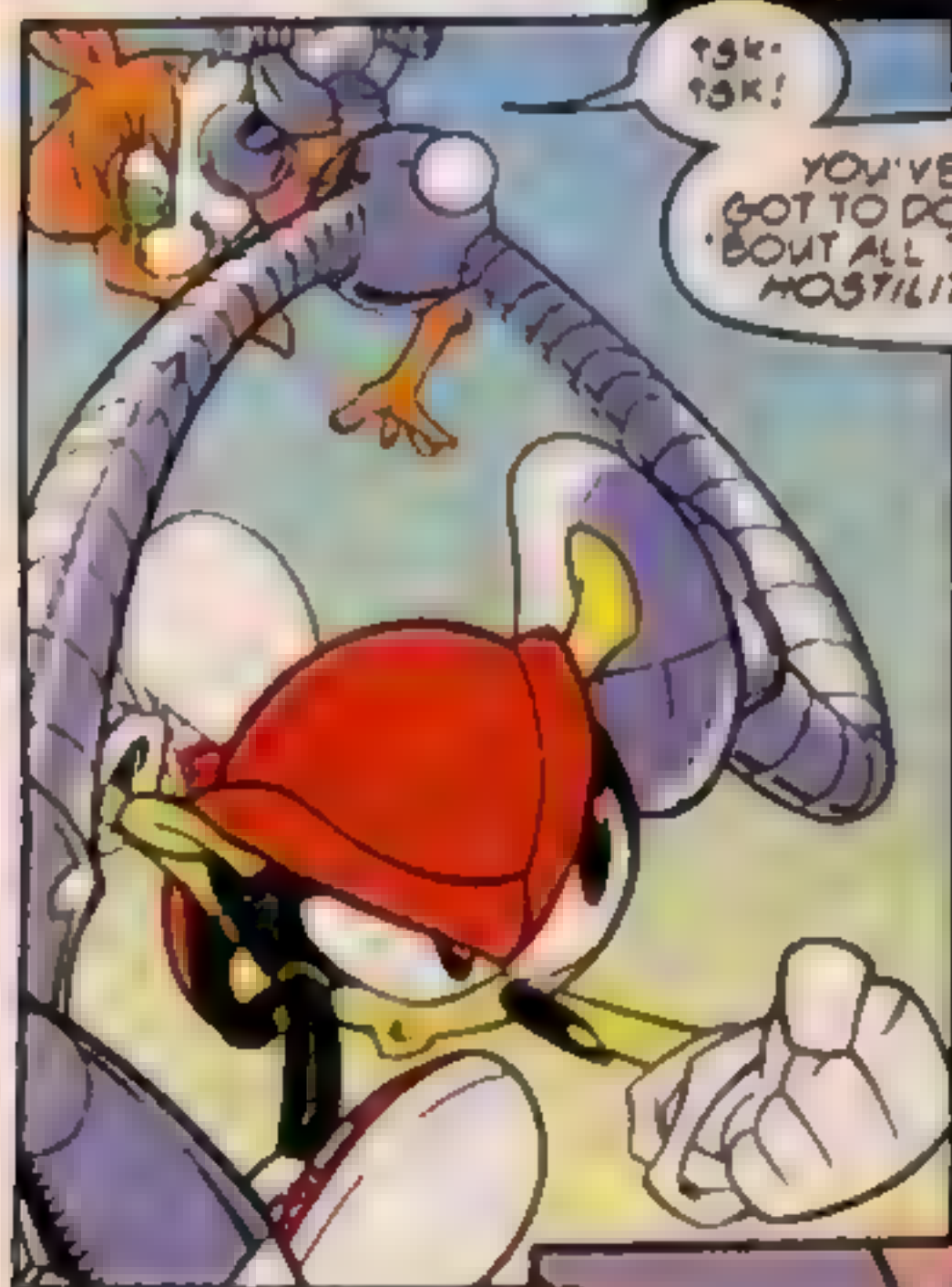








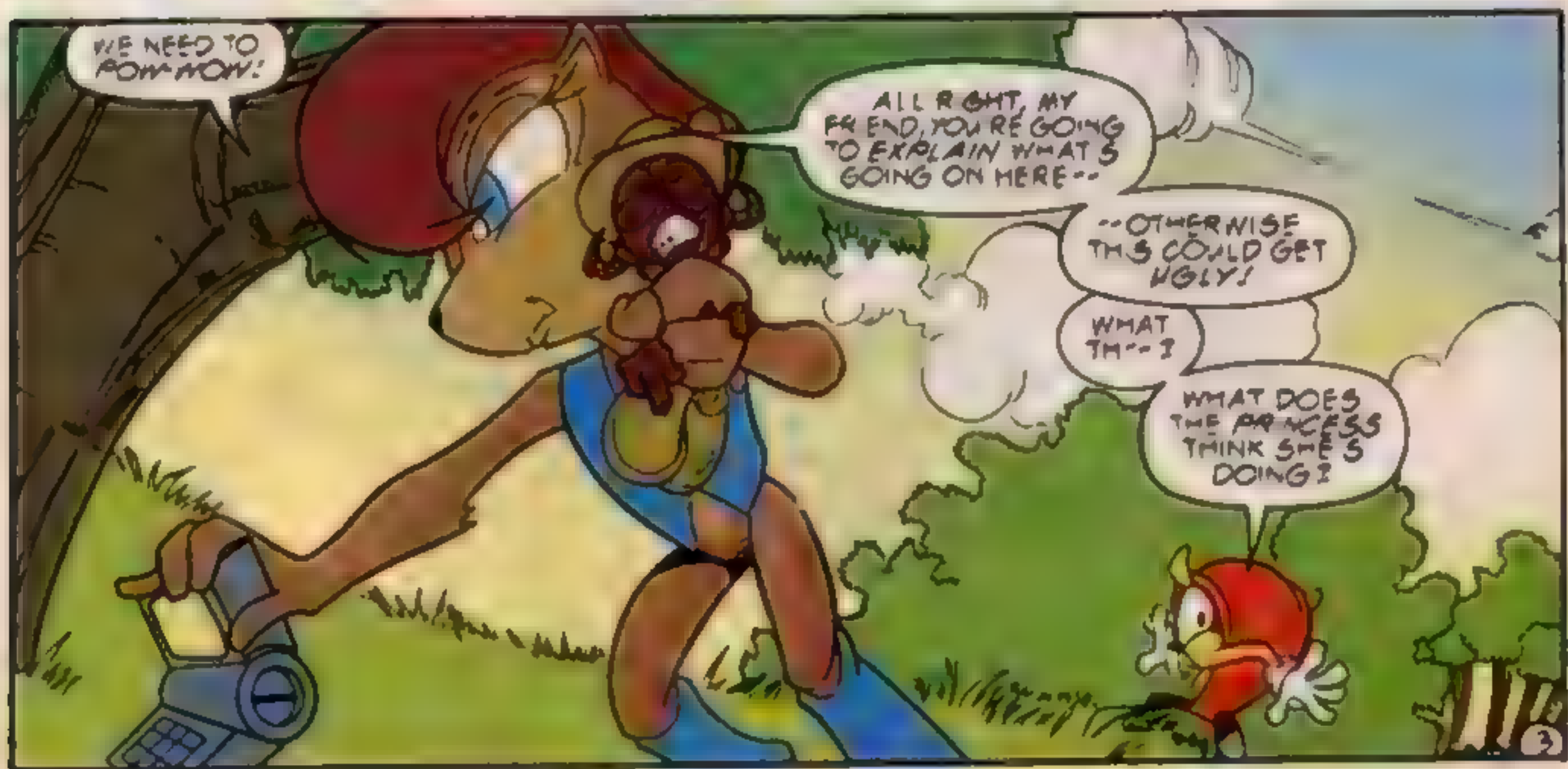
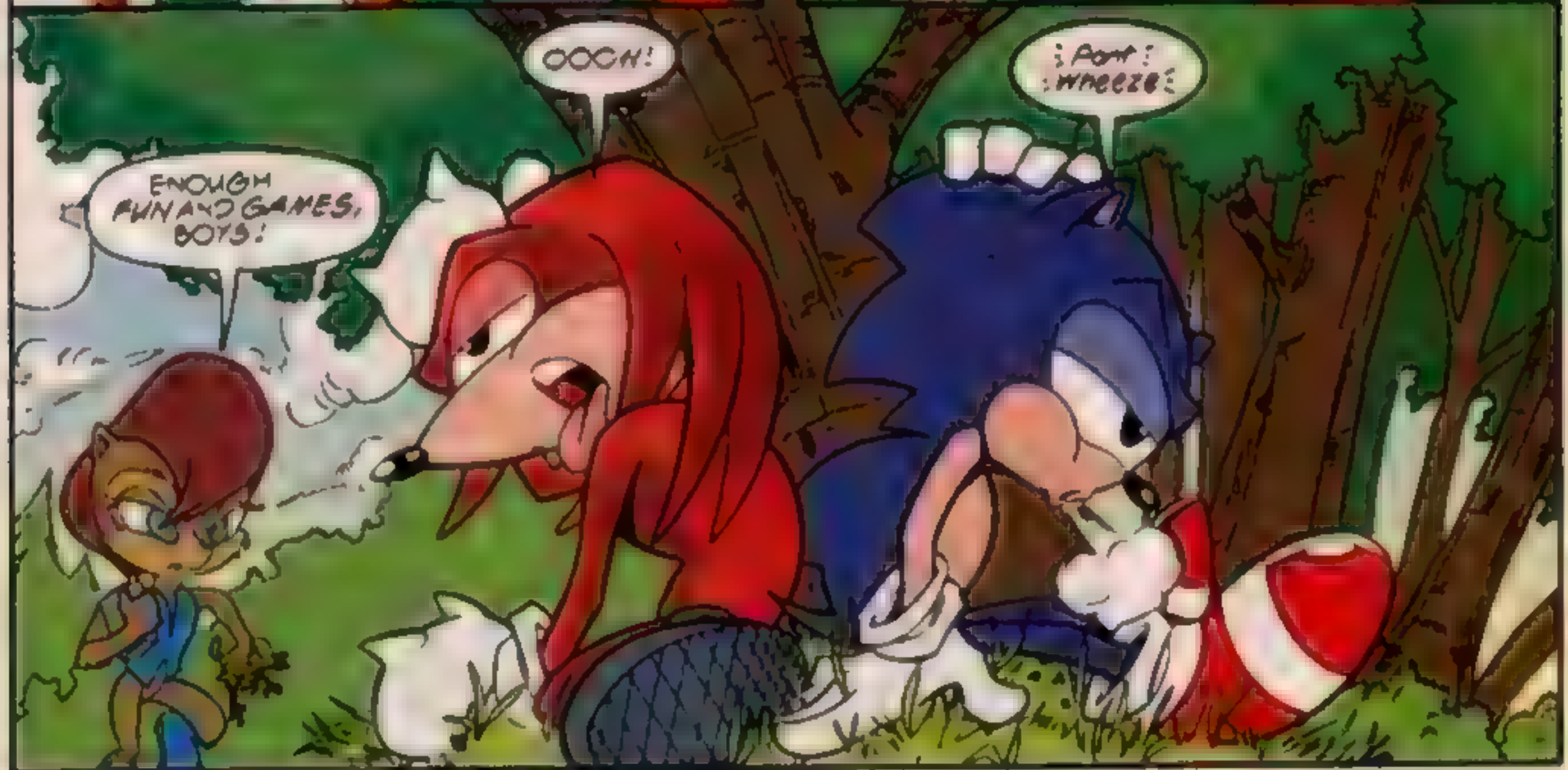


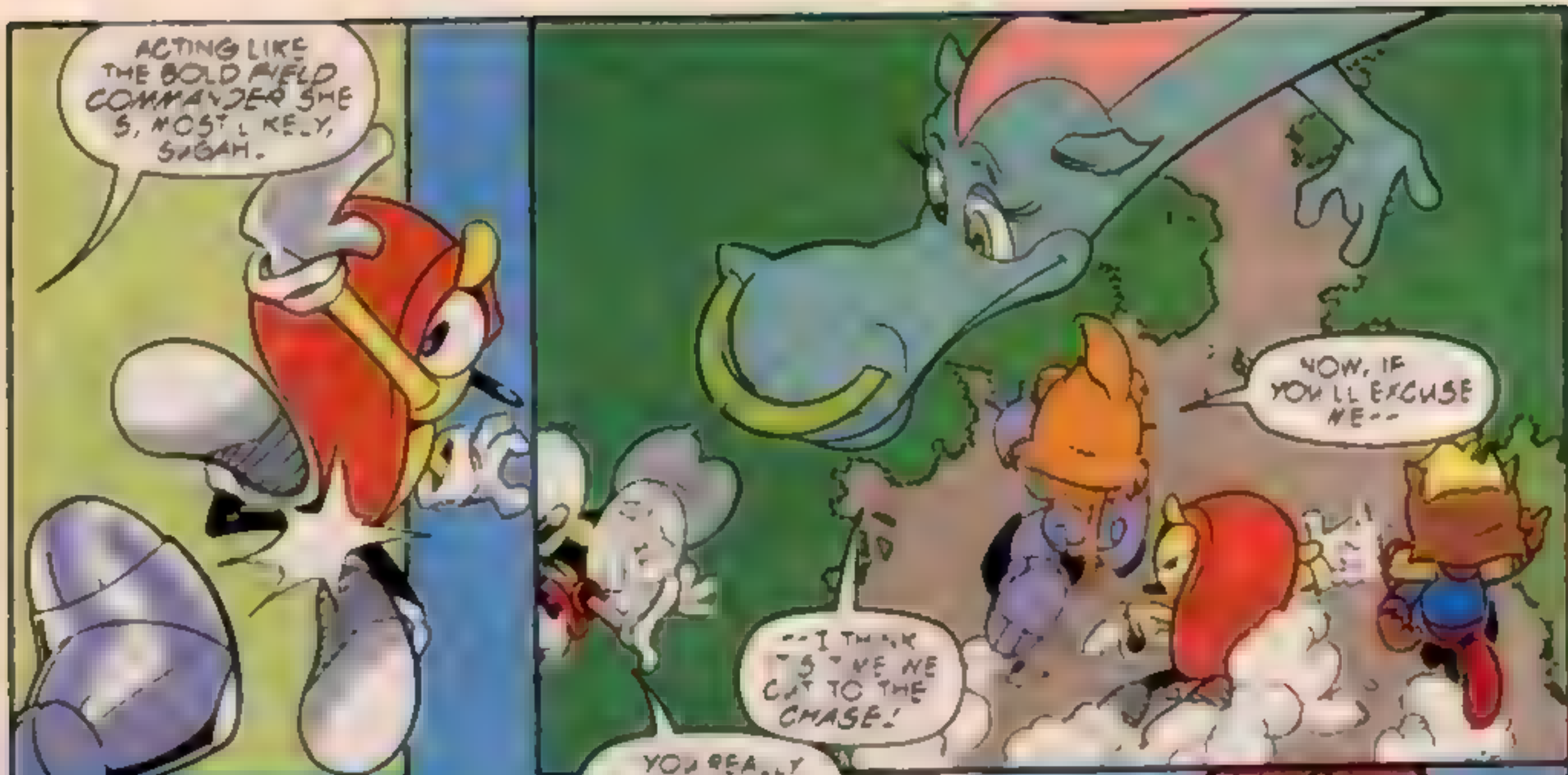


TAILS AND BUNNIE MIGHT HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL ABILITIES--









FWATOOMTROOM

BA-DHUUUM

AT LAST--

VICTORY IS MINE!

SAVOR THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS MY MENACING MINIONS!

BEFORE LONG, THE WORLD SHALL BE OURS!

DON'T YOU THINK WE'RE GETTING A LITTLE AHEAD OF OURSELVES?

INSOLENT WRETCH!

YOU DARE DOUBT MY POWER!

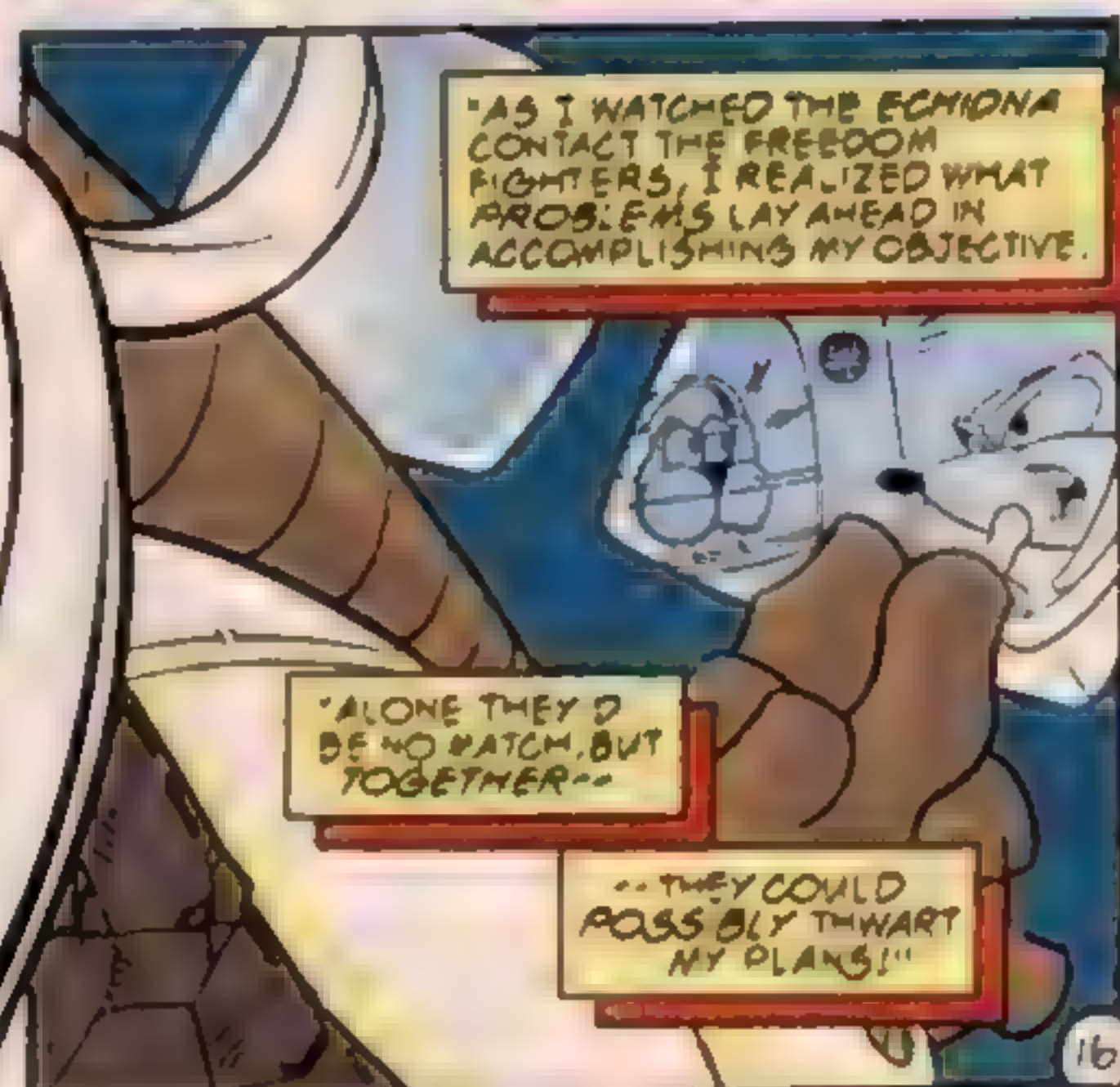
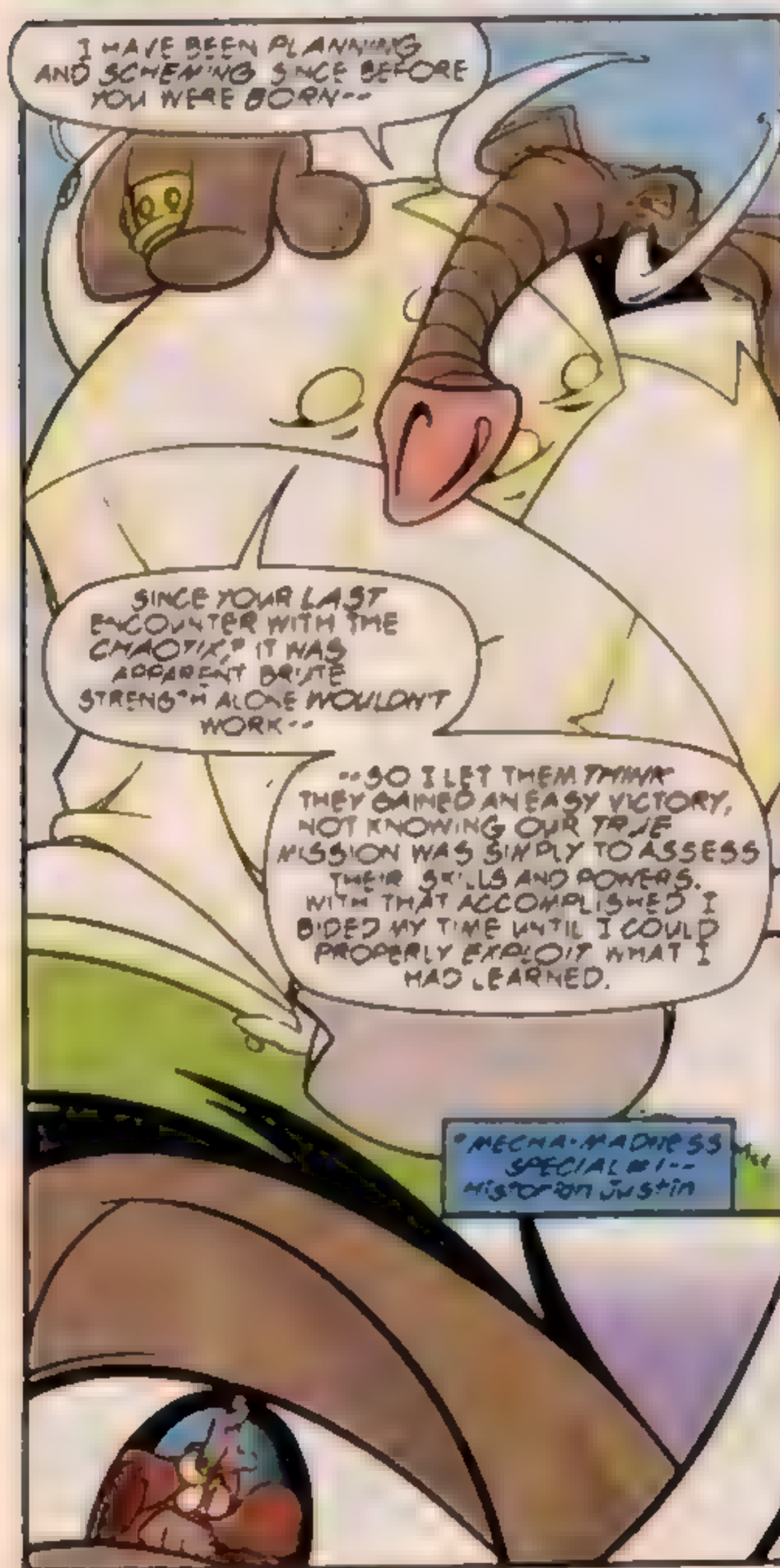
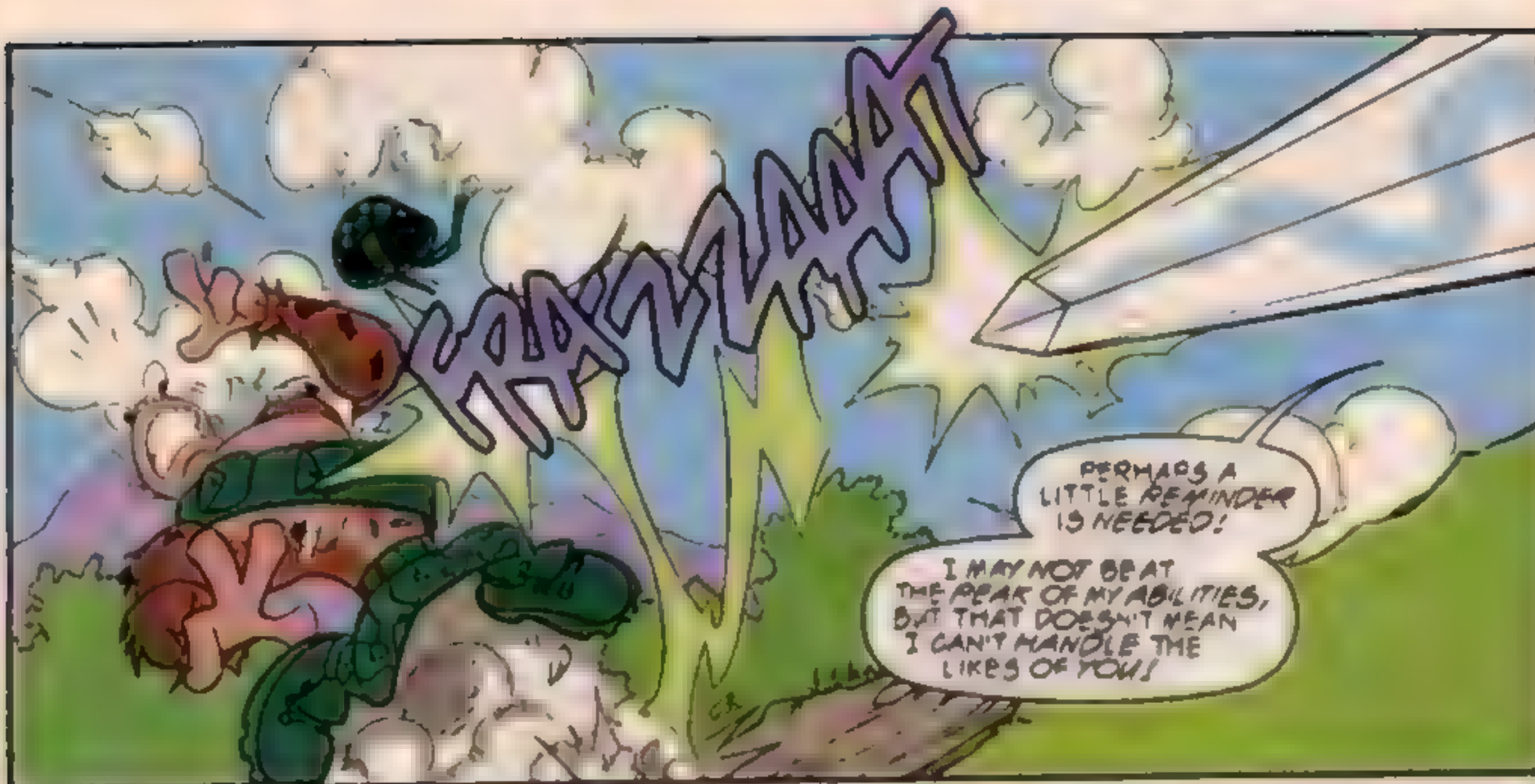
Mammoth Megul

Sgt. Simian

Lightning Lynx

Flying Frog

Predator Hawk



THAT'S WHY I SEIZED THE MOMENT
MAKING USE OF MY VAST PSIONIC
ABILITIES TO ALTER THE REALITIES
OF MY UNWITTING RAVINS...

"WHAT NEITHER THE WALRUS
OR ECHIDNA REALIZED WAS
THAT THEY WERE WATCHING
IMAGES GENERATED THROUGH
MY THOUGHT WAVES..."

I CONTROL
THE HORIZONTAL--
I CONTROL THE
VERTICAL--



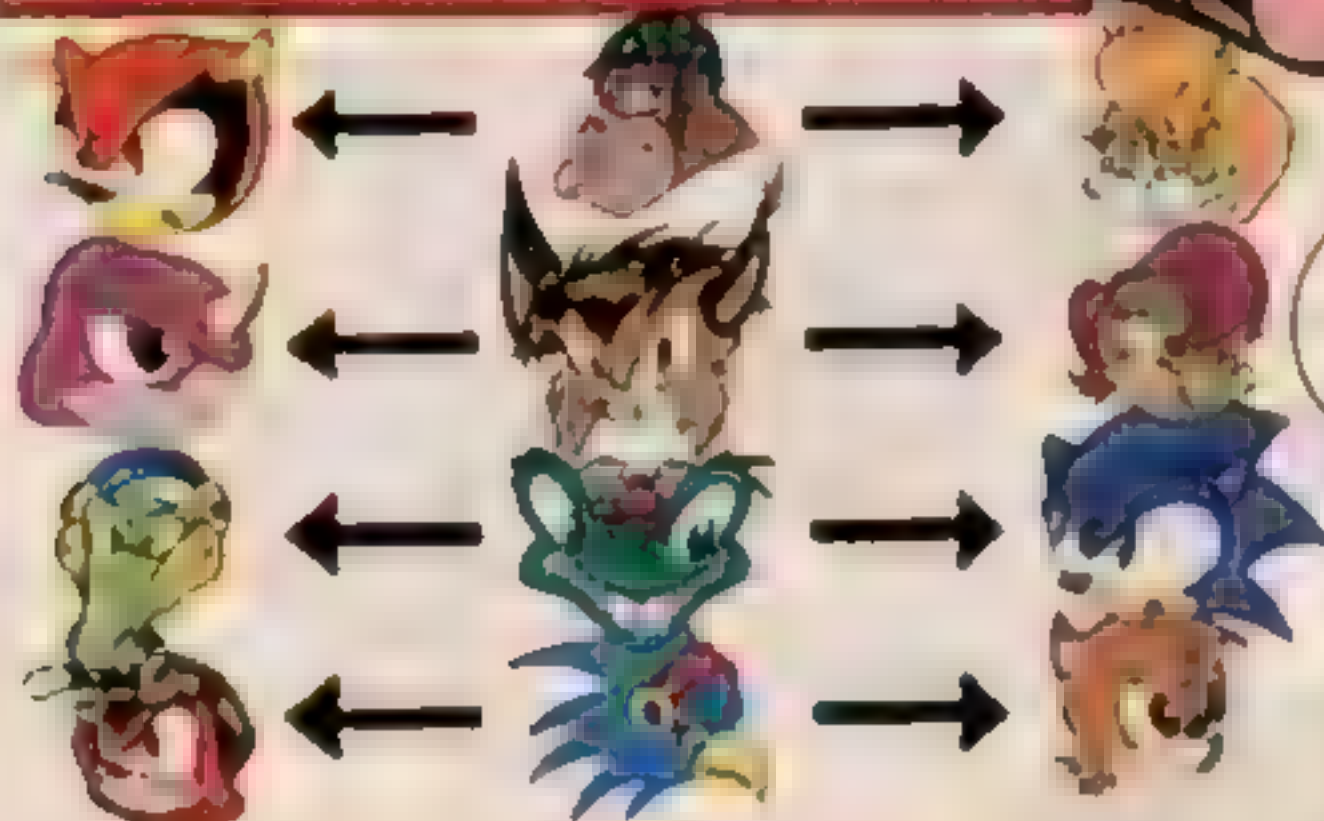
"AND THE ISLAND IS
UNDER SIEGE AGAIN. SO
FOR NOW...WE'RE KEEPING
THE SWORD!"

W.O.D FAST!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY
TO HELP!

...AND YOU'VE TAKEN
TOO LONG TO RETURN
THE SWORD--WE'RE
COMING FOR IT AND
YOU!

WHAT ARE
YOU JABBERING
ABOUT?

"THERE WAS STILL DANGER THAT COOLER
HEADS WOULD PREVAIL, SO I CREATED THE
ILLUSION OF THE FEARSOME FOURSOME
AS MEMBERS OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS
AND THE CHAOTIX, IN ORDER TO FAN THE
FLAMES OF MISTRUST BETWEEN THE
OPPOSING SIDES..."

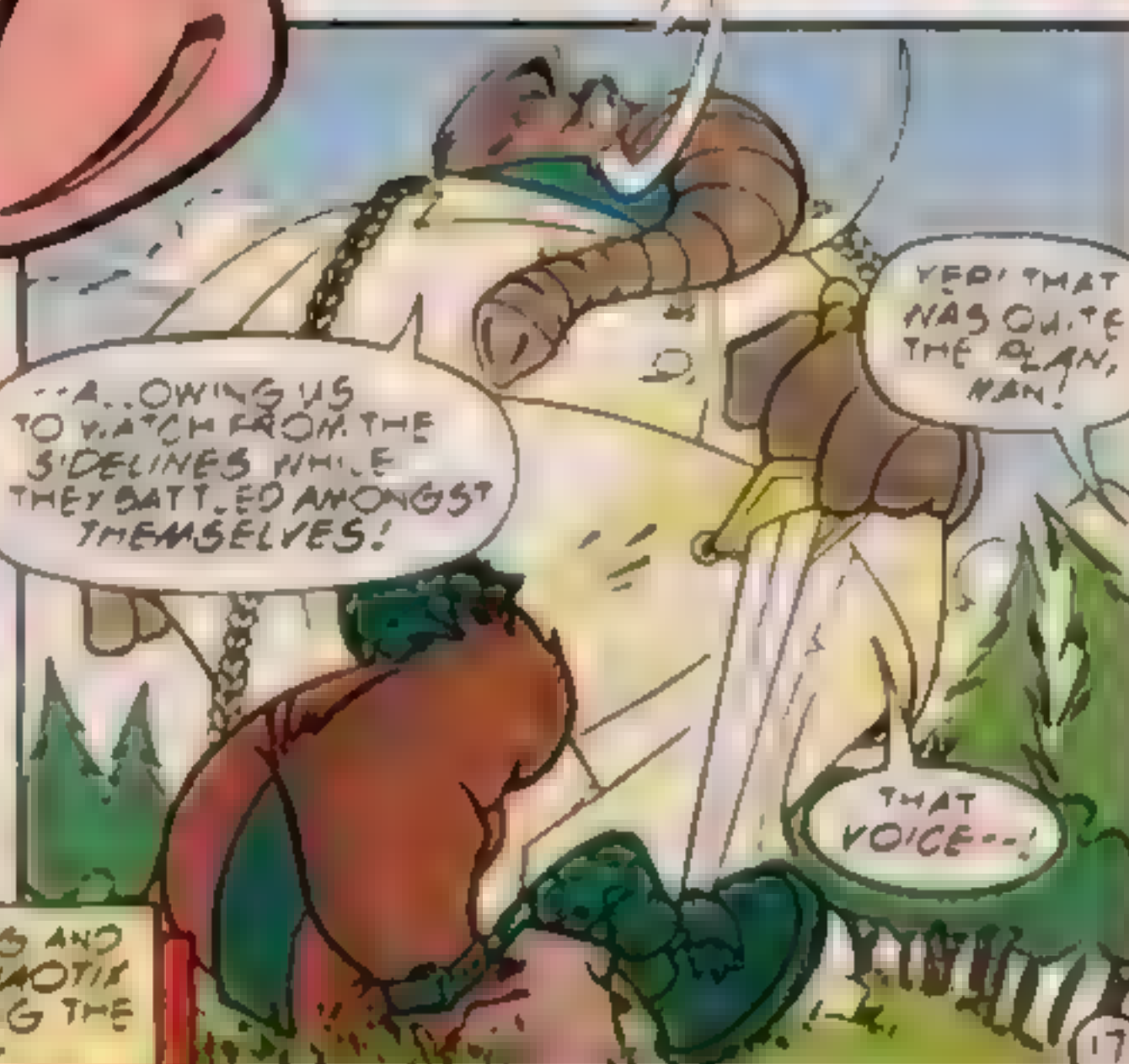


"HAVING BAITED THE HEDGEHOGS AND
FRIENDS, HE THEN MADE THE CHAOTIX
BELIEVE THE WORST CONCERNING THE
FREEDOM FIGHTERS--

--ALLOWING US
TO WATCH FROM THE
SIDELINES WHILE
THEY BATTLED AMONGST
THEMSELVES!

YEP! THAT
WAS QUITE
THE PLAN,
MAN!

THAT
VOICE--!





YOU ALL SURVIVED!
BUT HOW?

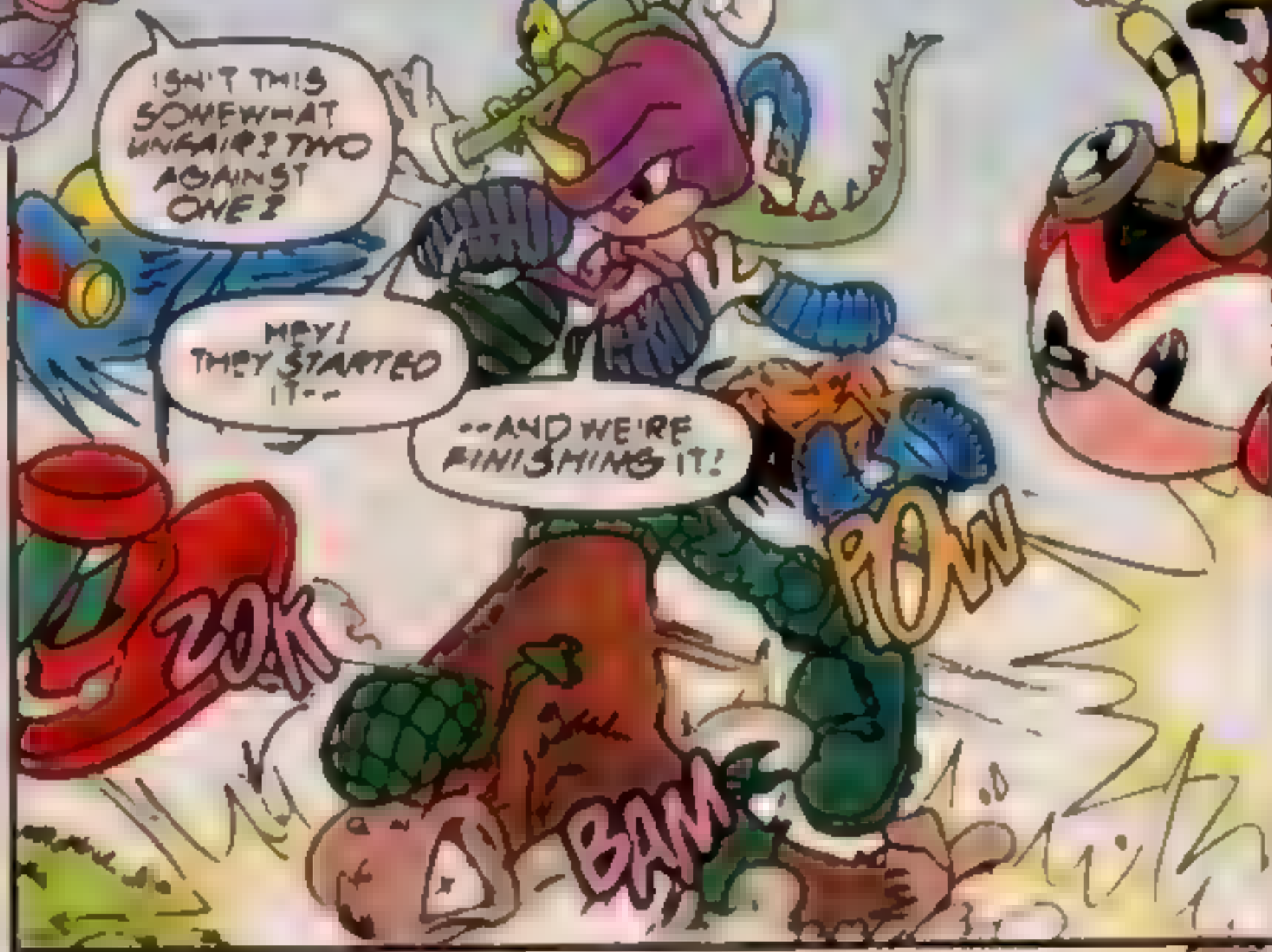
WE HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO SQUARE WITH YOU FIRST, BUB!



IS THAT SO?

I THINK MY ELITE GUARD MIGHT THINK OTHERWISE!

HAVE AT THEM!



ISN'T THIS SOMEWHAT UNFAIR? TWO AGAINST ONE?

HEY! THEY STARTED IT--

--AND WE'RE FINISHING IT!

ZOK

BAM

POW

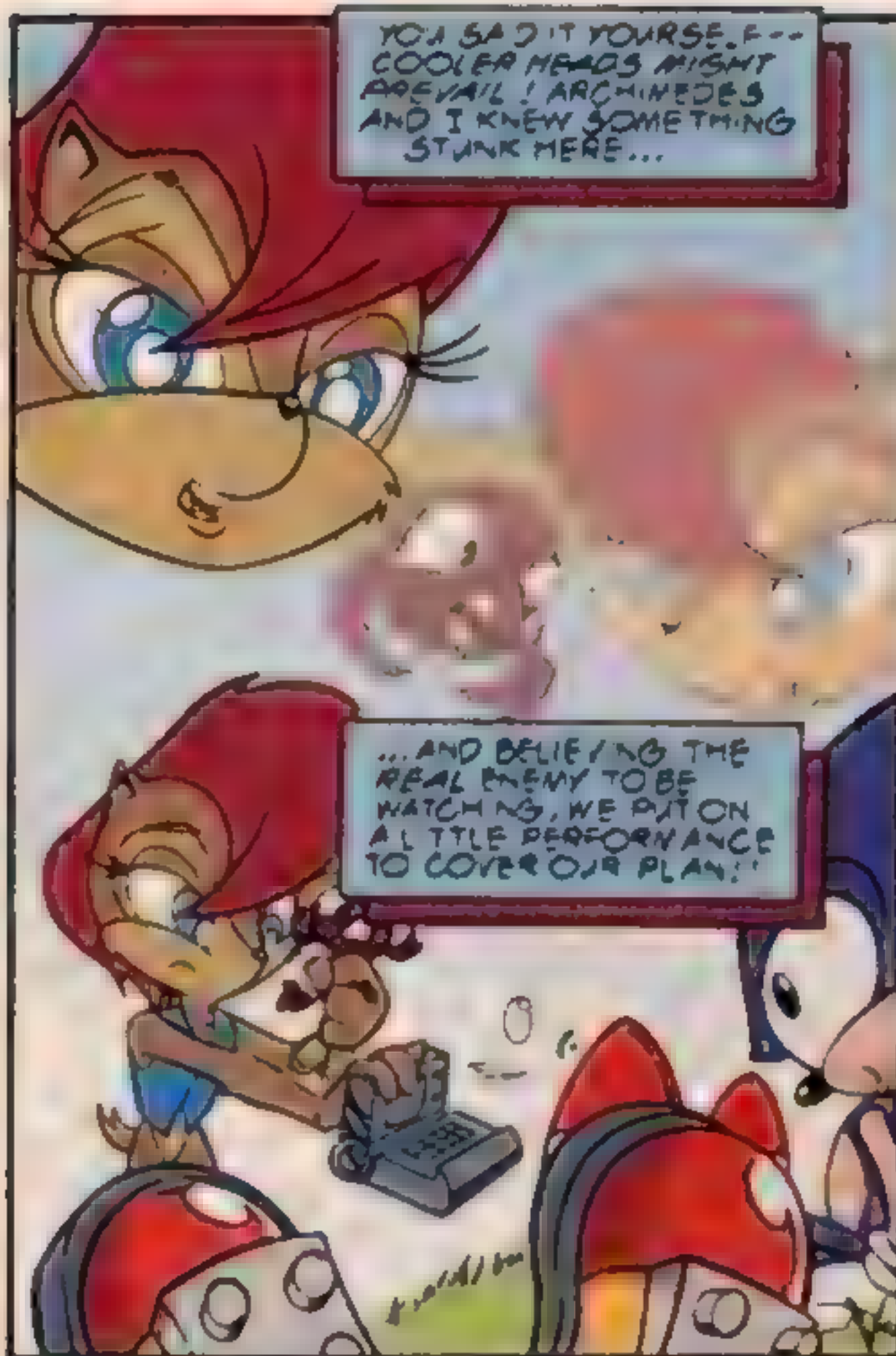


SO MUCH FOR THEM LOSERS!

YEAH, SNOT-NOSE TIME TO PAY THE PIPER!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I SAW THE LOT OF YOU IMPRISONED!

HOW COULD YOU--?



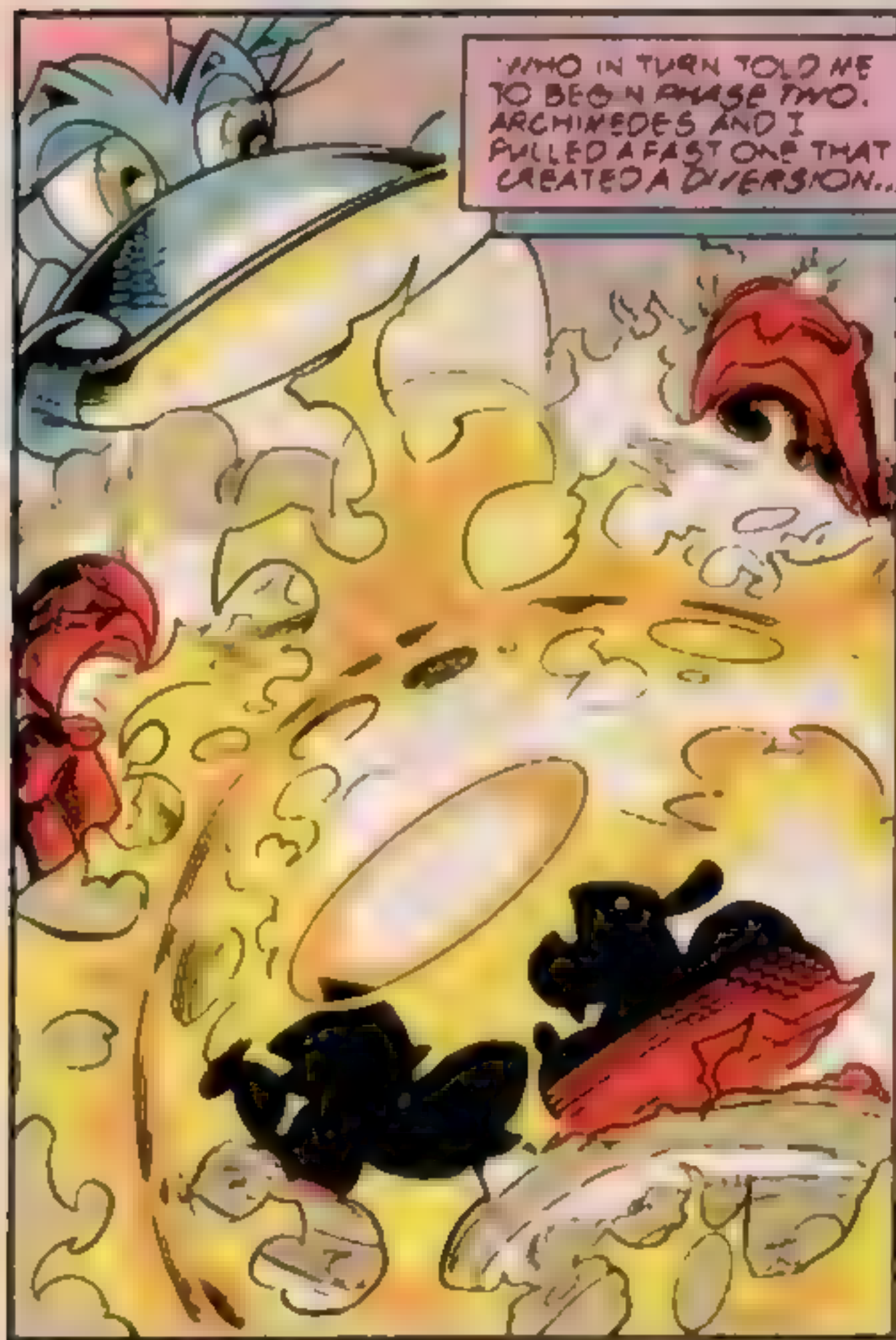
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF... COOLER HEADS MIGHT PREVAIL! ARCHIMEDES AND I KNEW SOMETHING STUNK HERE...

...AND BELIEVING THE REAL ENEMY TO BE WATCHING, WE PUT ON A LITTLE PERFORMANCE TO COVER OUR PLAN!



"USING POWERS YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW ARCHIMEDES HAD, HE COVERTLY CONTACTED CHARLY TO BEGIN PHASE ONE..."

"TELEPATHY MAYBE?" J. "NOT MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS" GOONIE



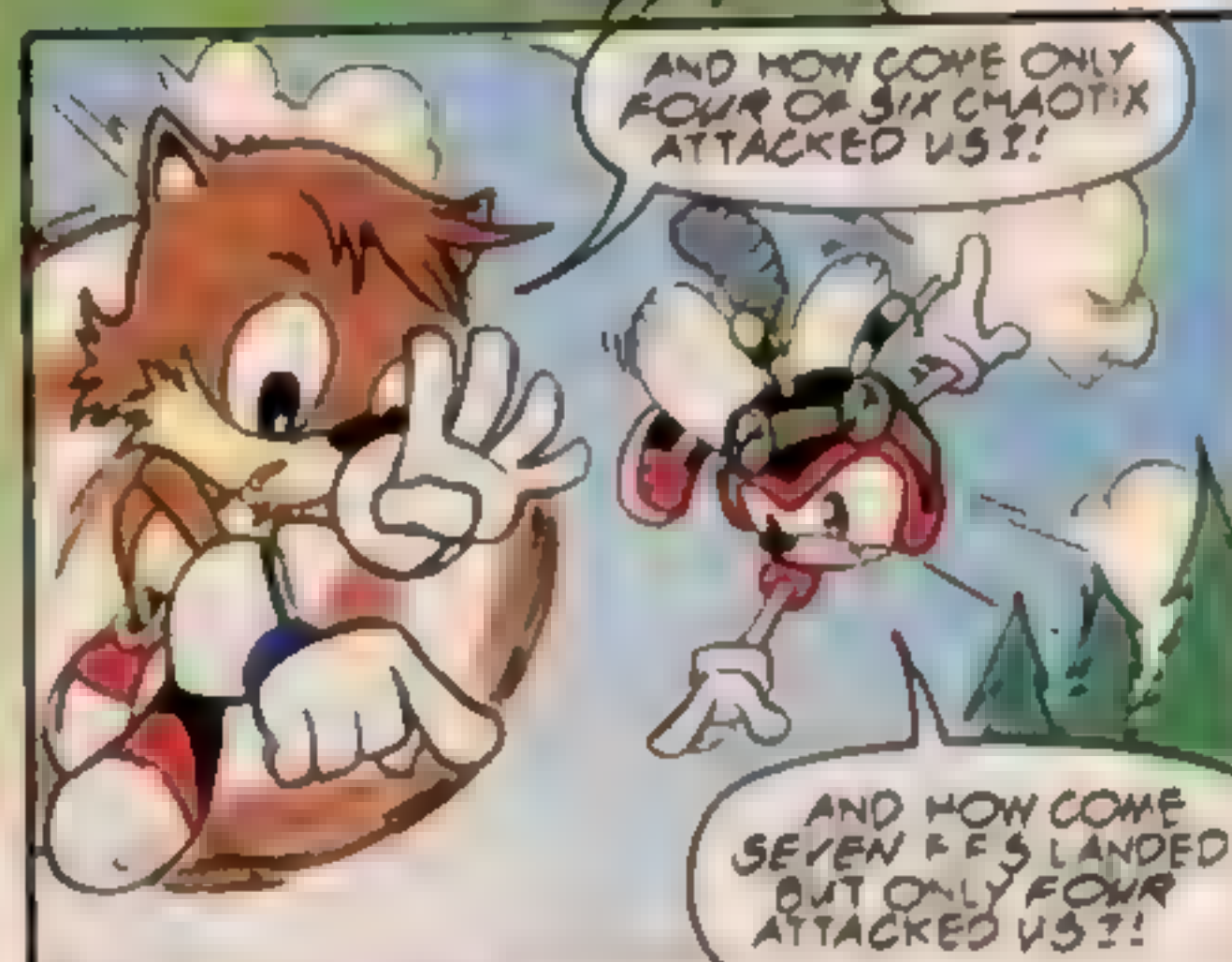
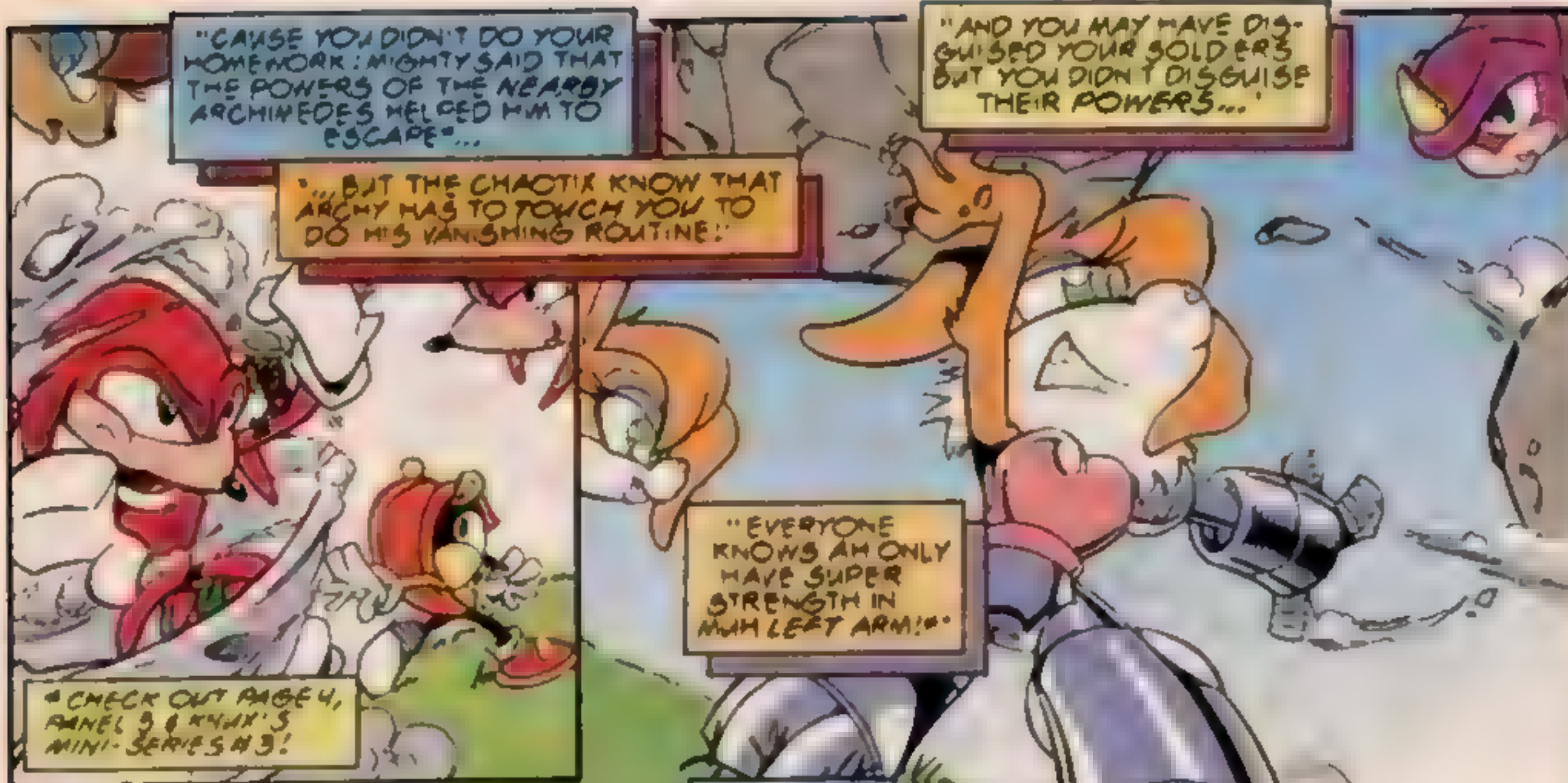
"WHO IN TURN TOLD ME TO BEGIN PHASE TWO. ARCHIMEDES AND I PULLED A FAST ONE THAT CREATED A DIVERSION..."

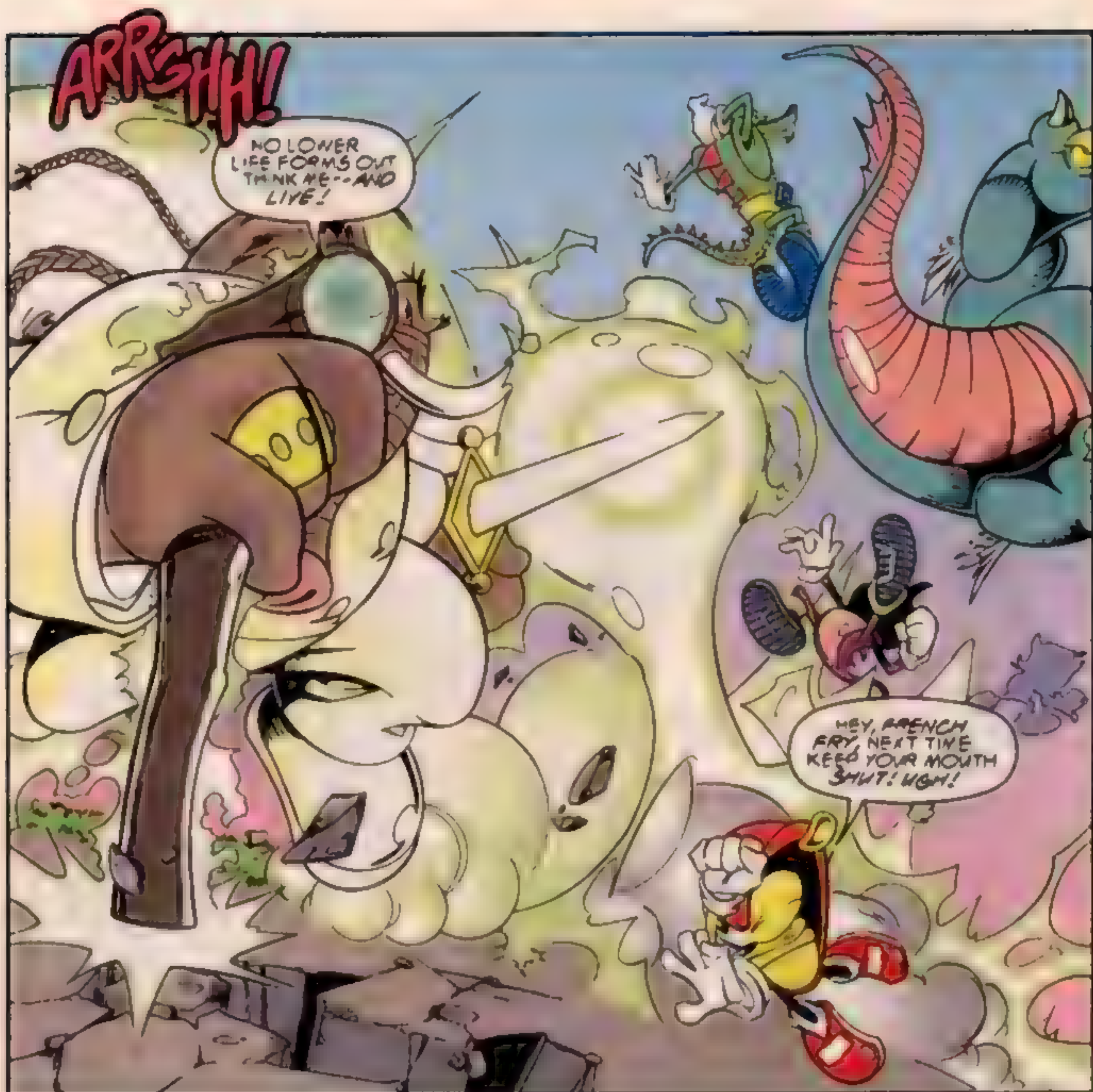


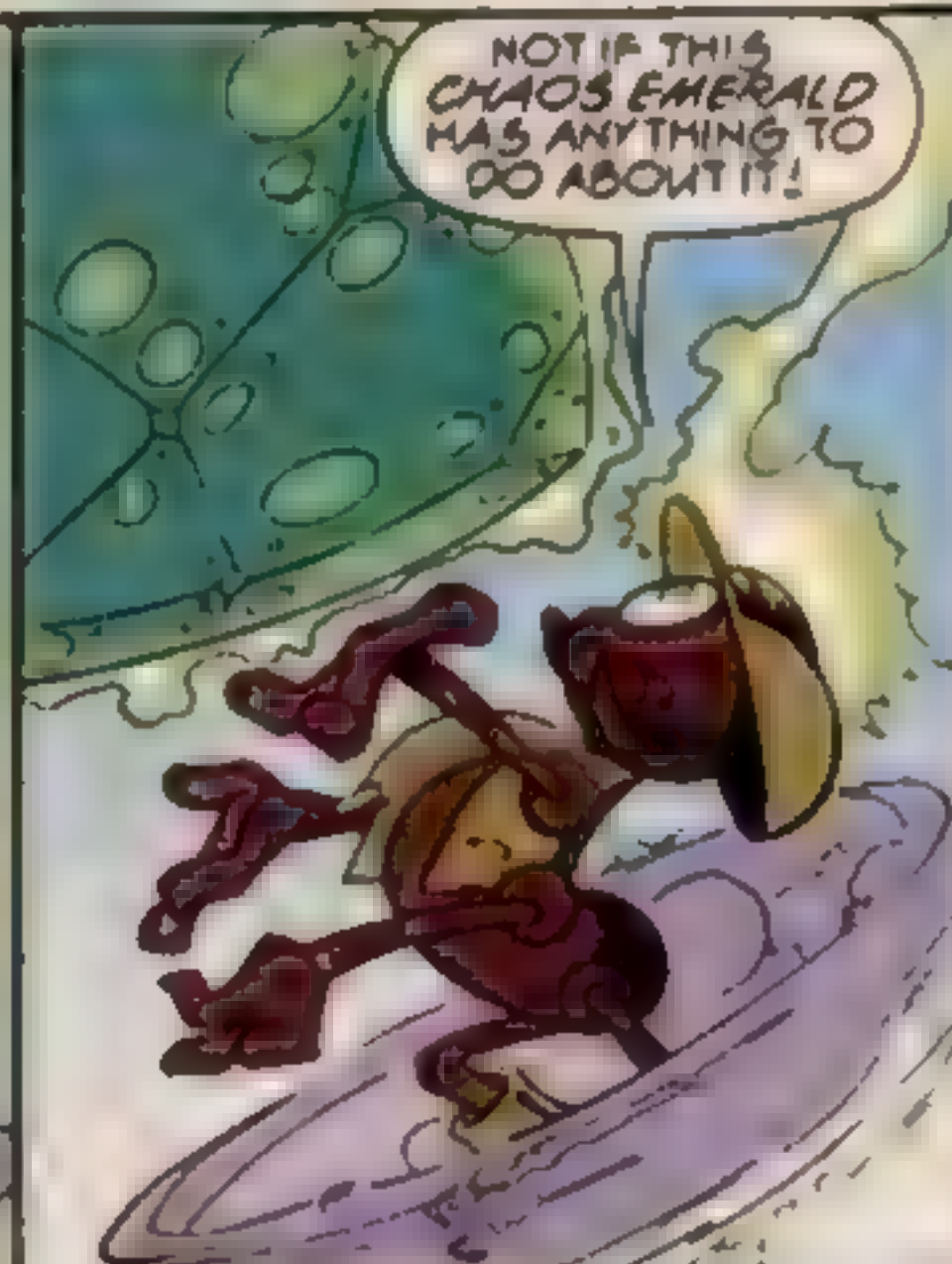
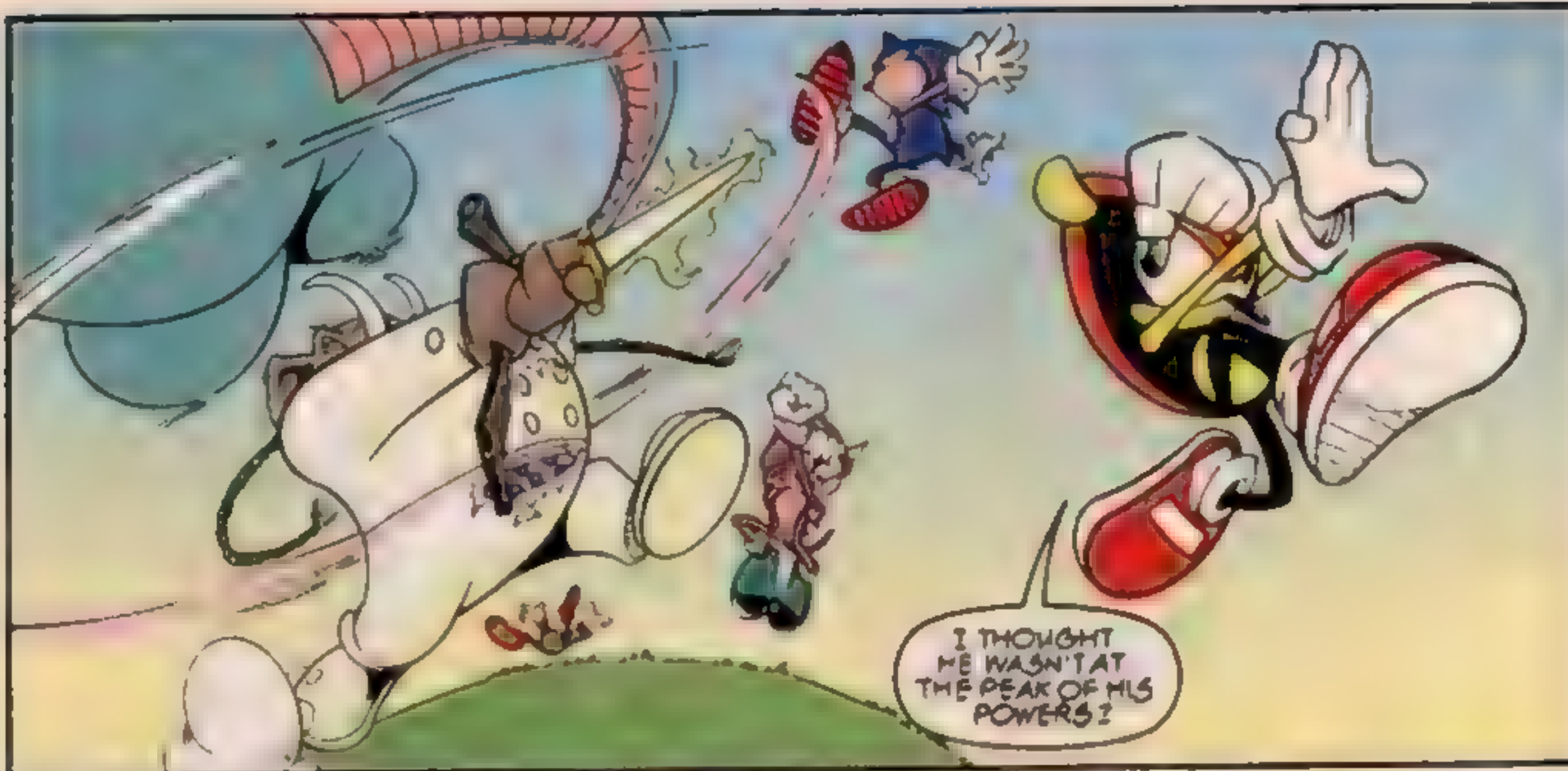
AND WHILE THE KEWL FLAMES MADE US LOOK LIKE WE WERE TAKIN' THE HEAT, ARCHY TELEPORTED US TO SAFETY...

...WHICH GAVE US TIME TO FIGURE OUT BOTH OUR GANGS WERE TAKING THE RAP FOR YOUR HOMIES!

AND HOW IS IT YOU CAME UPON THAT BRIEF FLASH OF BRILLIANCE?







* CHECK OUT
MATHIAS ROE
IN SONIC #46.



WOW! BRING
TWO CHAOS EMERALDS
TOGETHER...

AND
THAT'S WHAT
YOU GET...
UTTER
CHAOS!

PRETTY SMART--
TAKING A CHANCE
ONE CHAOS EMERALD
MIGHT BLOW UP
ANOTHER!

IT WAS A
DESPERATE
GAMBLE AT
BEST!

ALRIGHT!
HE BLEW HIM
OUT OF THE
UNIVERSE!

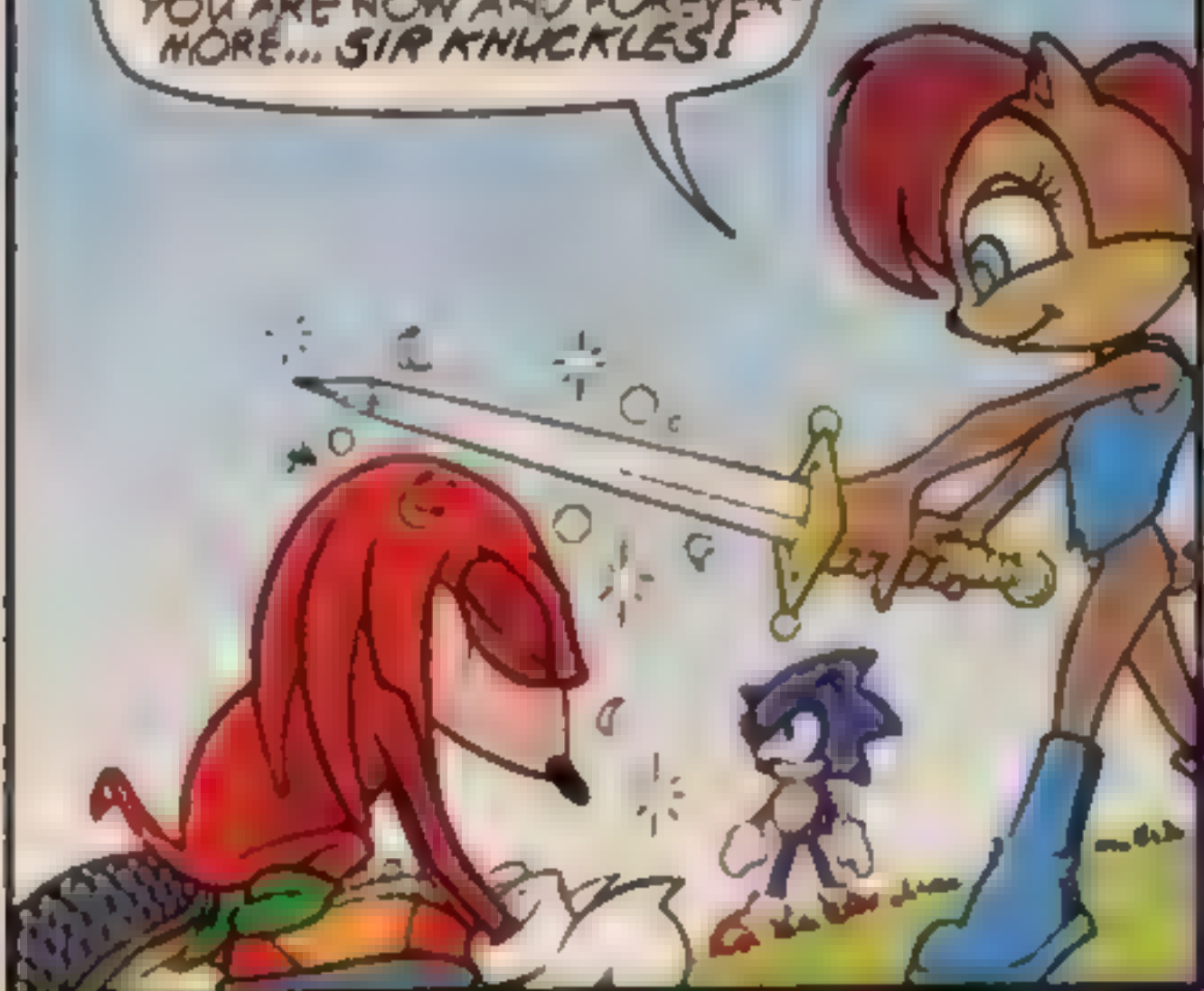
DON'T SWEAT
IT, SHORTY. IT PAID
OFF!

AND IT
DO LEAVE
US WITH
THE SWORD
SO...

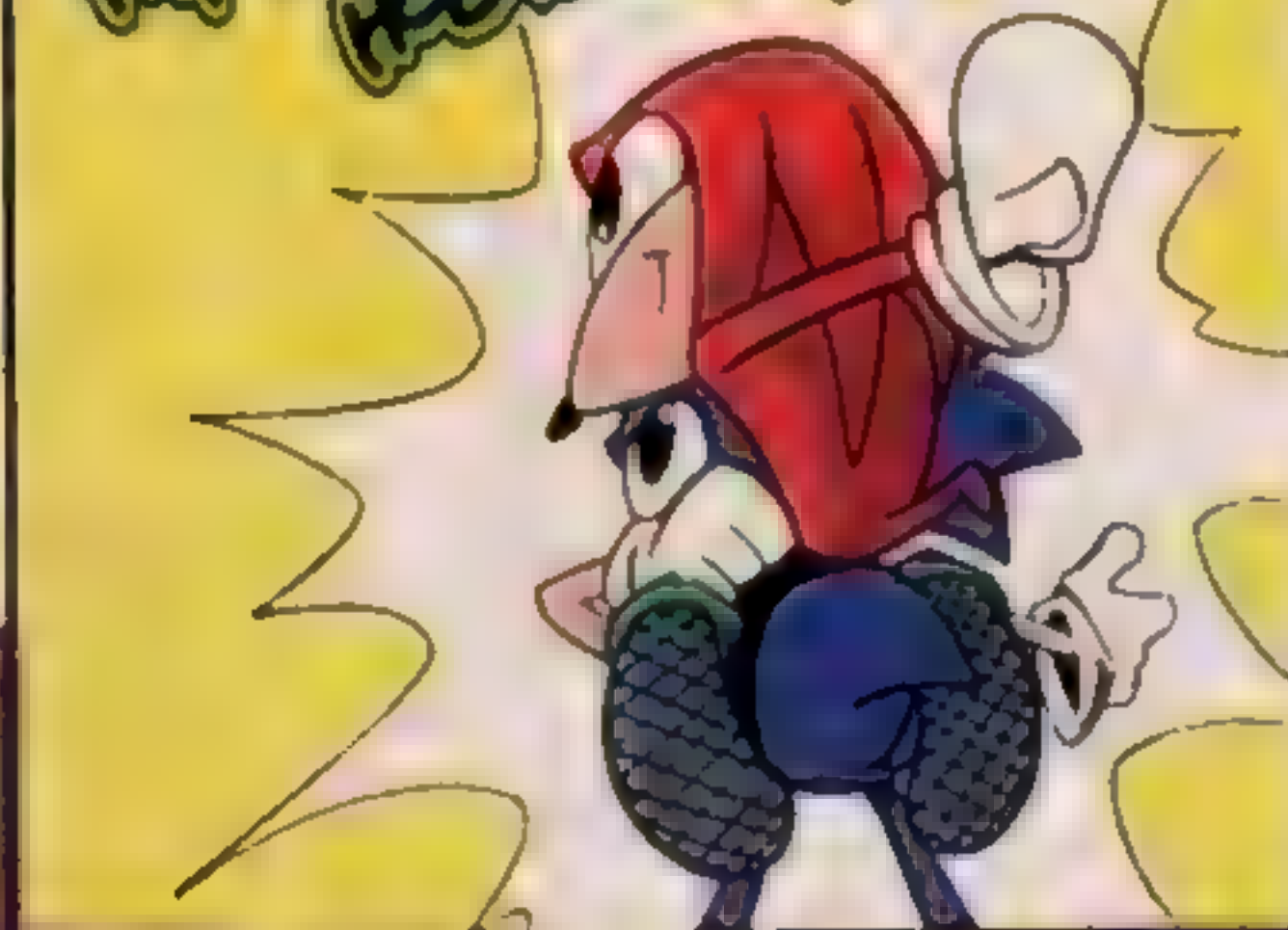
AS PER MY
SOLENN VOW I
HUMBLY MAKE
GOOD MY
PROMISE!

AND FOR YOUR
COURAGE AND FORTI-
TUDE ON BEHALF OF
THE REALM...

I HEARBY DULY
KNIGHT YOU! YOU ARE
THIS ISLAND'S GUARDIAN,
BUT WHEN IN A KNOTHOLE,
YOU ARE NOW AND FOREVER-
MORE... SIR KNUCKLES!

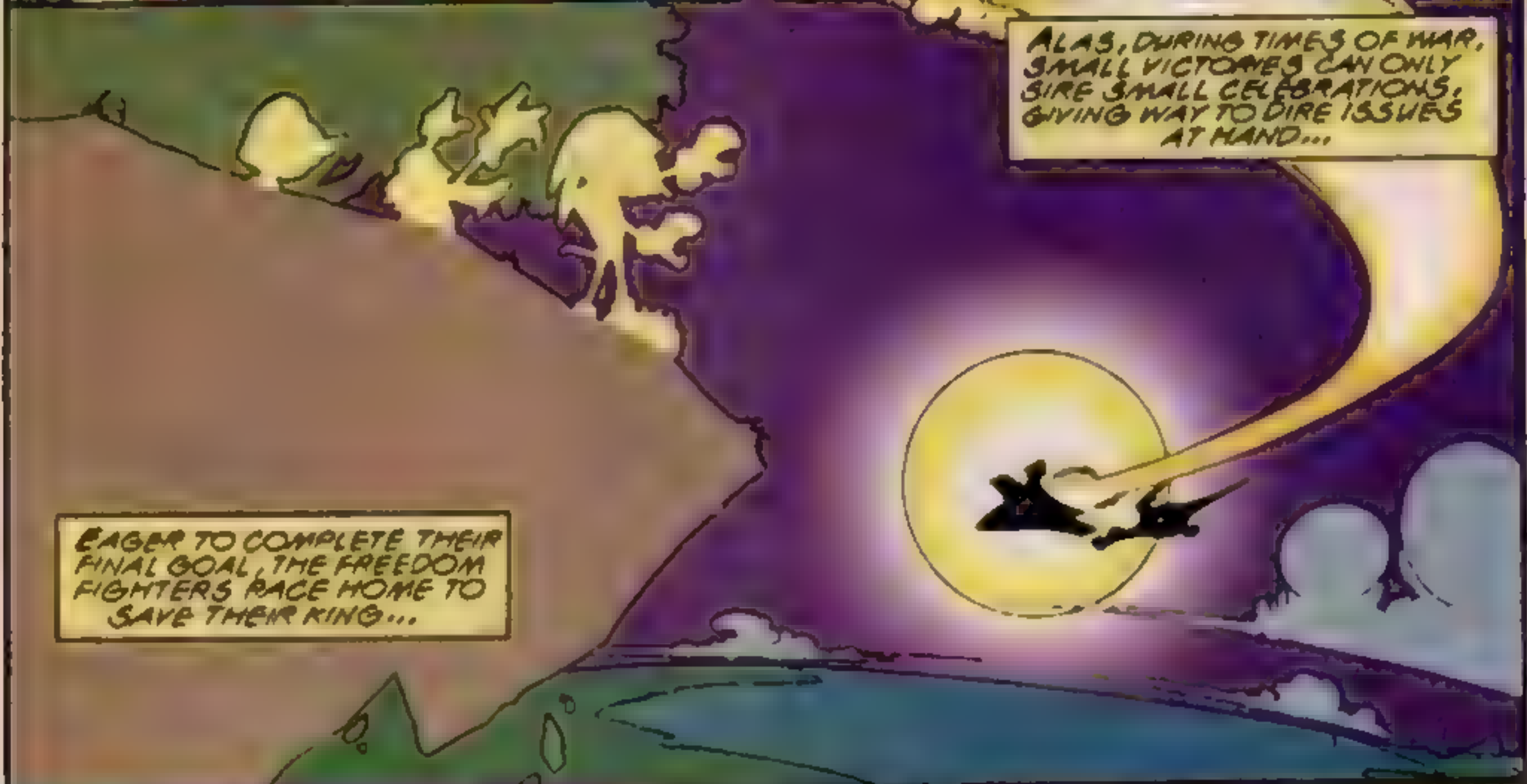


HIP HIP
HURRAY!



ALAS, DURING TIMES OF WAR,
SMALL VICTORIES CAN ONLY
SIRE SMALL CELEBRATIONS,
GIVING WAY TO DIRE ISSUES
AT HAND...

EAGER TO COMPLETE THEIR
FINAL GOAL, THE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS RACE HOME TO
SAVE THEIR KING...

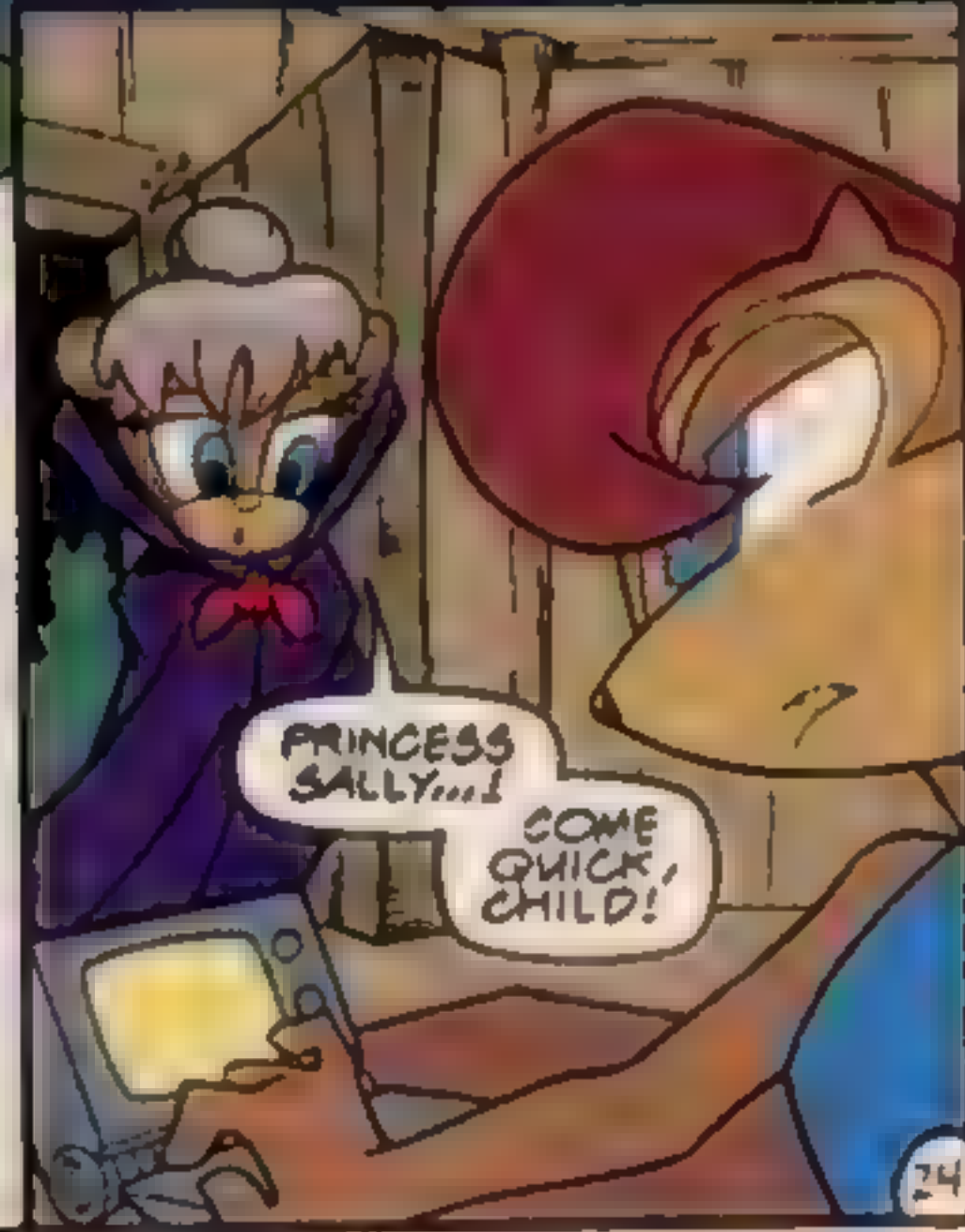


...NEVER SUSPECTING THAT
WHICH AWAITS THEM IN
THEIR SECRET SANCTUARY!

POTOR, CONTACT UNCLE
CHUCK! WITH HIS HELP,
I'M SURE WE CAN FINALLY
RETRIEVE THE CROWN OF
ACORNS! I'LL BEGIN MY RE-
SEARCH IN MY HUT WITH
NICOLE.



PRINCESS
SALLY...!
COME
QUICK,
CHILD!





DADDY!

REALLY, MY DEAR SALLY, WHAT'S BECOME OF YOUR REGAL BEARING?*

* SEE SONIC #47 FOR THE LOW-DOWN

EPilogue:

AND WHILE A RAY OF HOPE SEEMS TO EMIT FROM THAT FORMER REALM, IT MAY JUST BE CLOUDED BY THE SWIRLING MISTS OF AN UNKNOWN MYSTERIOUS REALM...

WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE... TO THINK THEY COULD OUT-WIT ME...



IF ONLY THEY KNEW I'VE MANIPULATED EVERY EVENT... FROM MY SEEMING INEPTITUDE, TO MY "ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION..."



...AND BY THE TIME THEY ASCERTAIN I HAVE THE REAL SWORD OF ACORNS, IT WILL BE TOO LATE!



MY MASTER PLAN WILL BE WELL NEAR COMPLETION, LEAVING THE ENTIRE PLANET MOBUS GROVELING AT MY FEET!

KING ACORN RESTORED TO HEALTH!! LOOKS LIKE IT'S COUNTDOWN TO ROBOTNIK'S DESTRUCTION, OR IS IT? THE ANSWER IS ENDGAME IN SONIC #50. SEE LETTERS PAGE FOR DETAILS. AND WHAT OF MAMMOTH MOGUL? KEEP READING SONIC & KNUCKLES TO FIND OUT!!

BATTLE ROYAL

mail

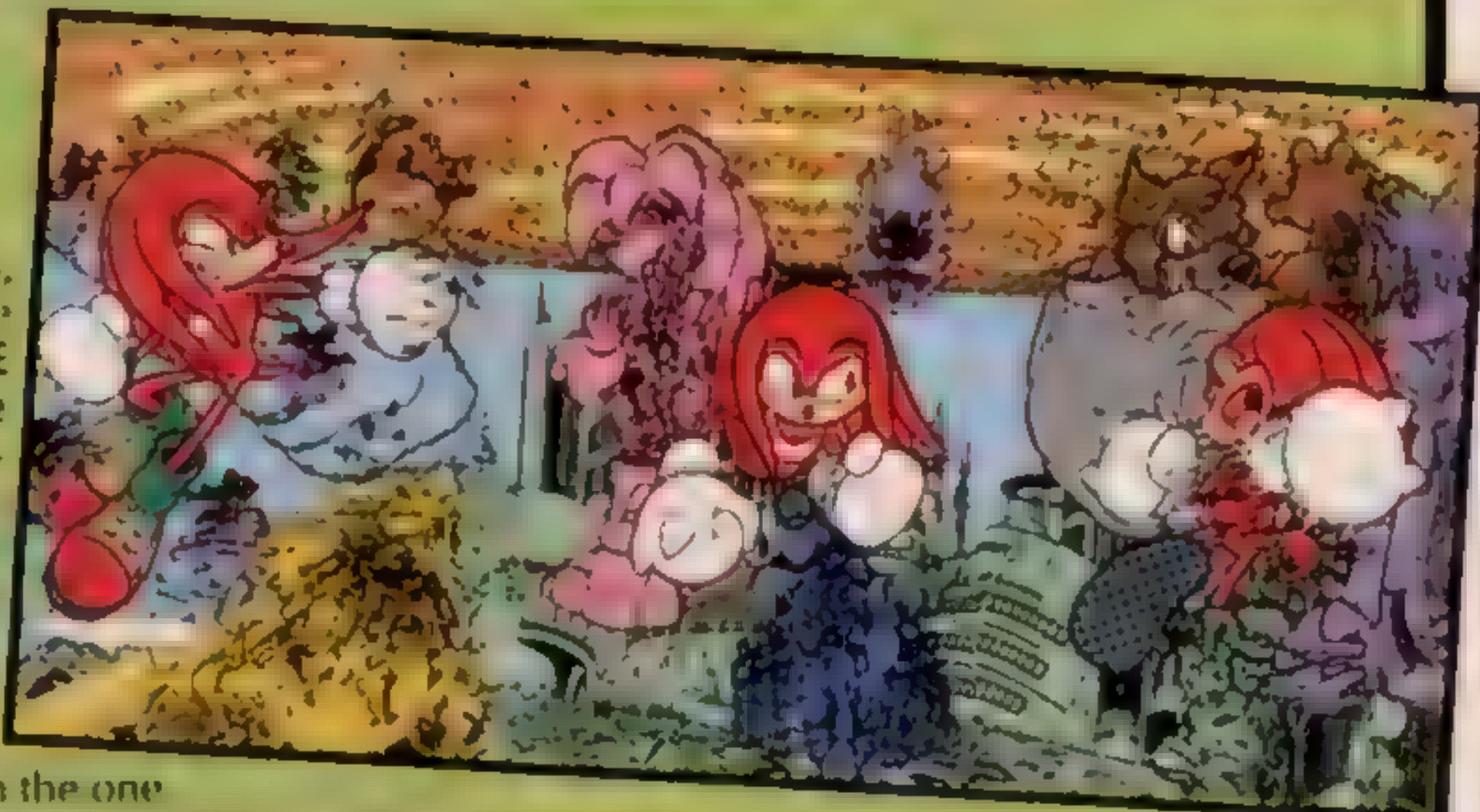
Battle Royal Mail c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box 419, Mamaroneck, NY 10843-0419

J. Freddy Gabrie
Editor



In four weeks, get set for the premiere of **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #4** the ongoing series, starting a new chapter in the life of everyone's favorite Guardian of the Floating Island. In a three-part epic, "LOST PARADISE"

reunites Knuckles with the one person he never, ever expected to see. But an even bigger problem occurs when the fabled city of Echidnaopolis reappears, posing a threat to the Floating Island's eco-system. Don't miss the echidna excitement with regulars Ken Penders, Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy. In the tradition of the first three issues, every three-part story-arc will sport triple-combo covers by fan-fave Pat



'Spaz'iate along with inks by Ken Penders and colors by those maniacs at Heroic Age! Also look for a contest announcement in his letters page to commemorate his new ongoing series.

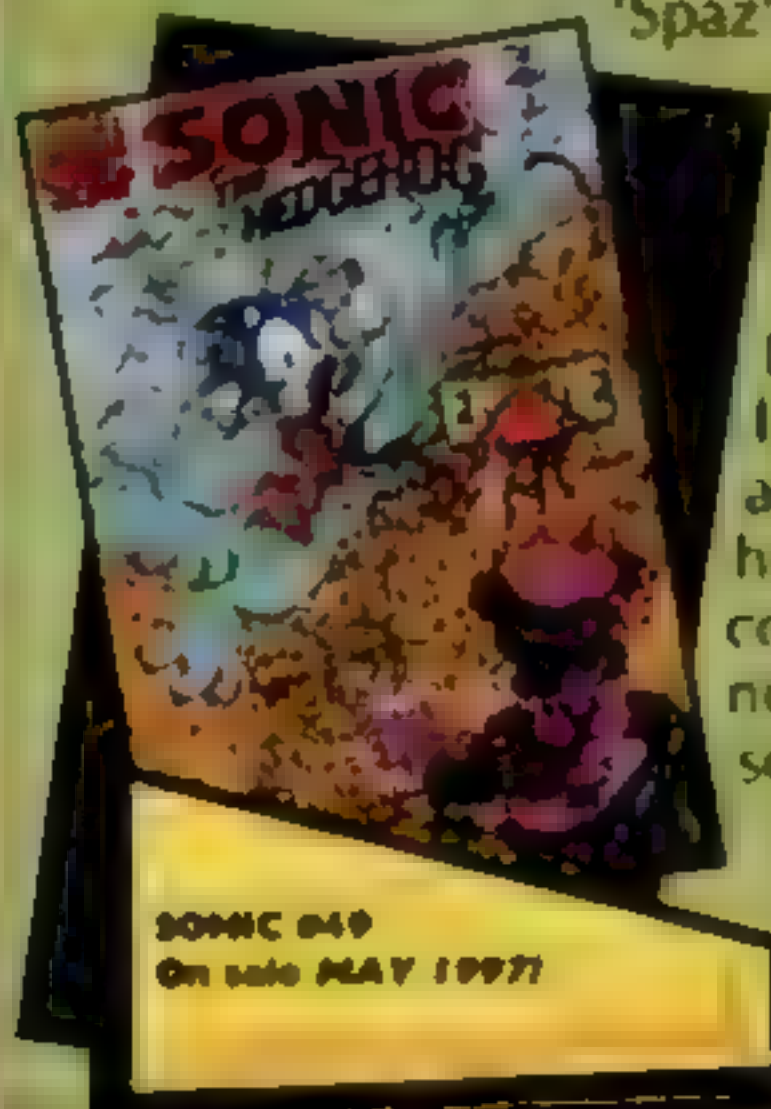
In other Mobius news, in one week "End Game"

continues. The stakes between Robotnik and the Freedom Fighters reaches a fever-pitch. The now-healthy King Acorn loses his daughter in an attack on Robotropolis, and Sonic is arrested as the culprit responsible. Sonic escapes to clear his name. The King orders none other than Geoffrey St. John to track him down. That's when things get nasty. Read "Escape to the Floating Island!" in **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #49**, on sale May 1997! Whatever you do, don't miss this one!

Look out for the next Sonic Special coming your way in four months time... **SONIC SPECIAL '97: A BRAVE NEW WORLD #11** 'Nuff said!

—Freddy—

P.S.: Attention! Attention! Mike Wallis' name was spelled incorrectly in the "SONIC BLAST" Special #1 credits page. Sorry, Mike.



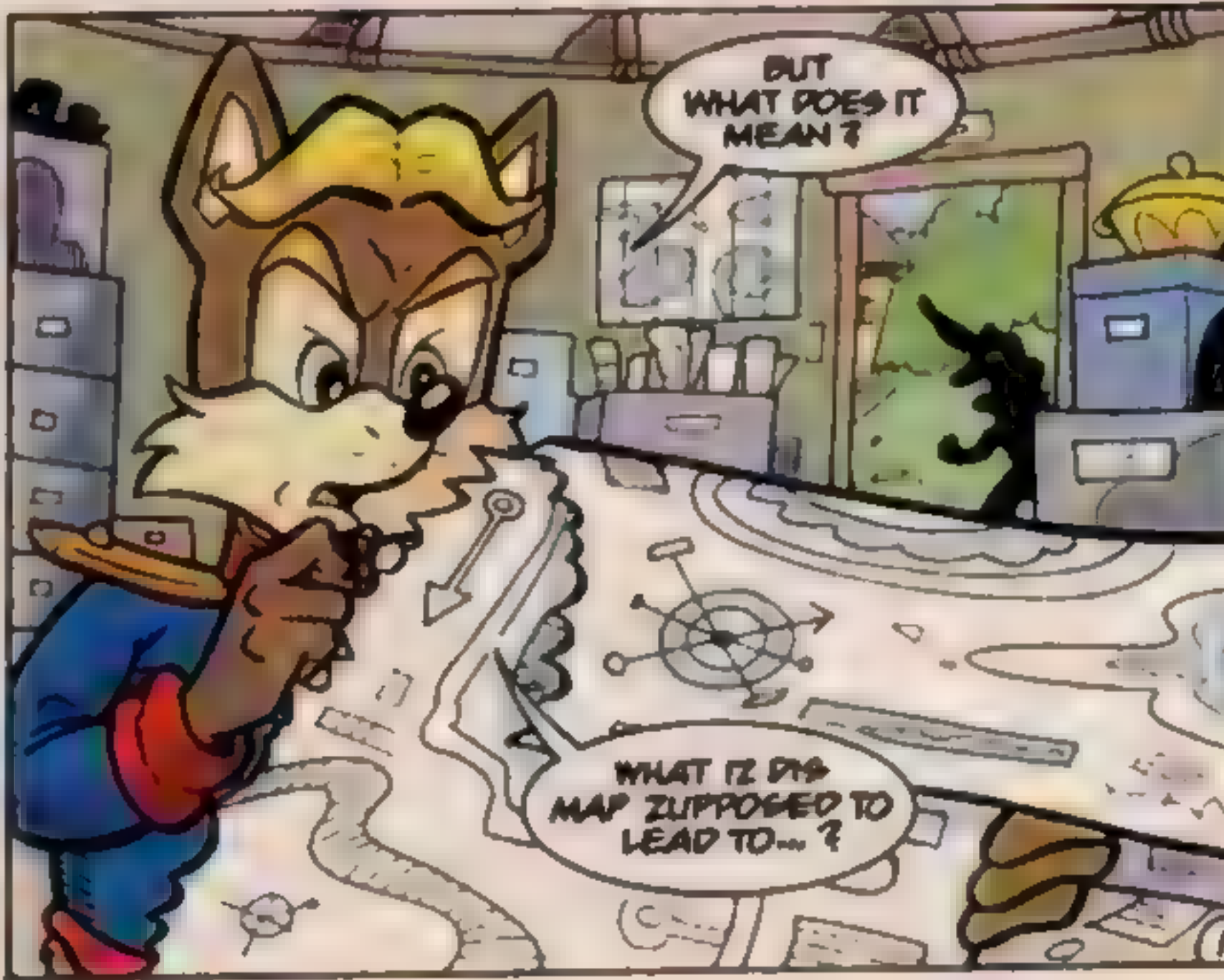
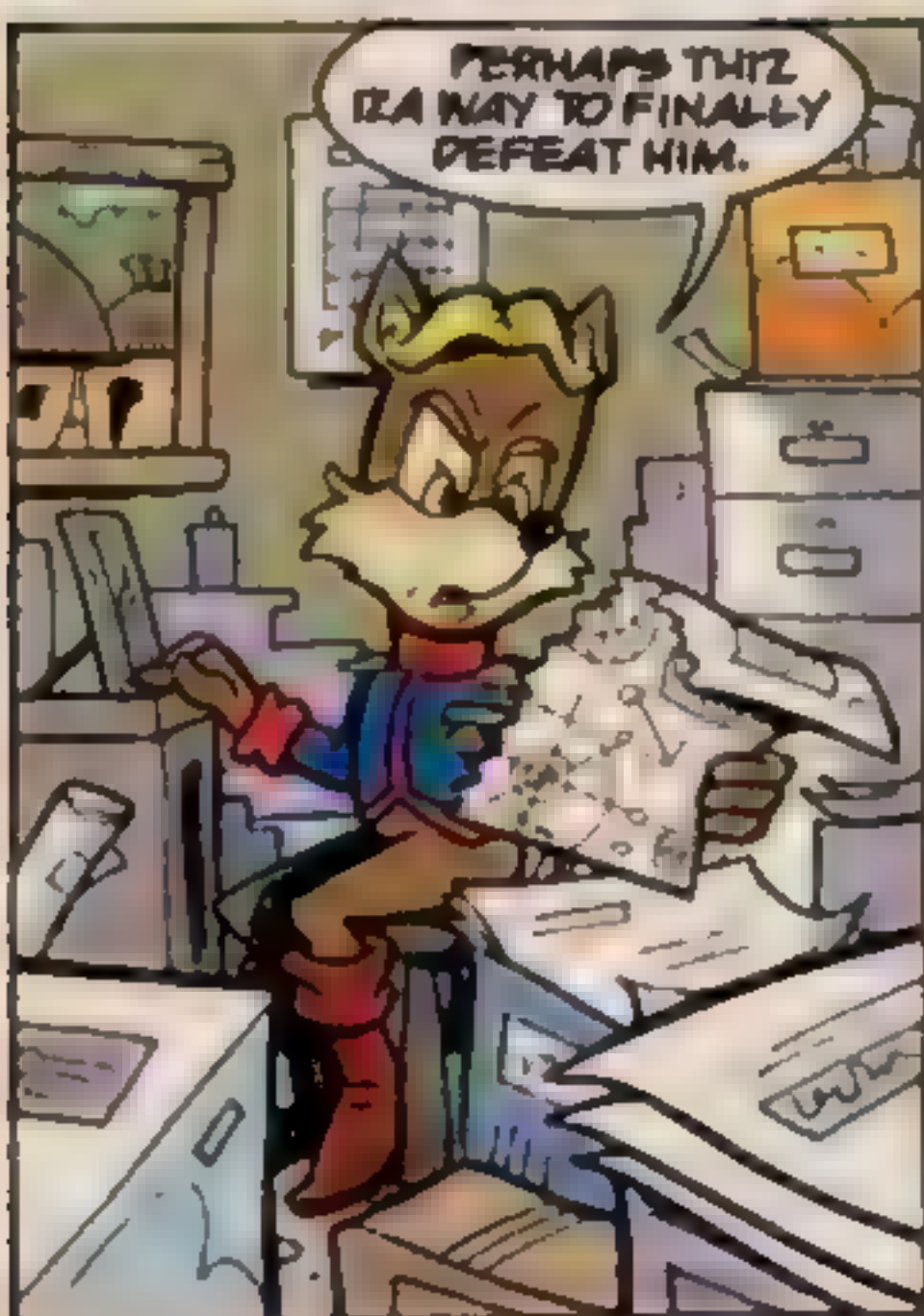
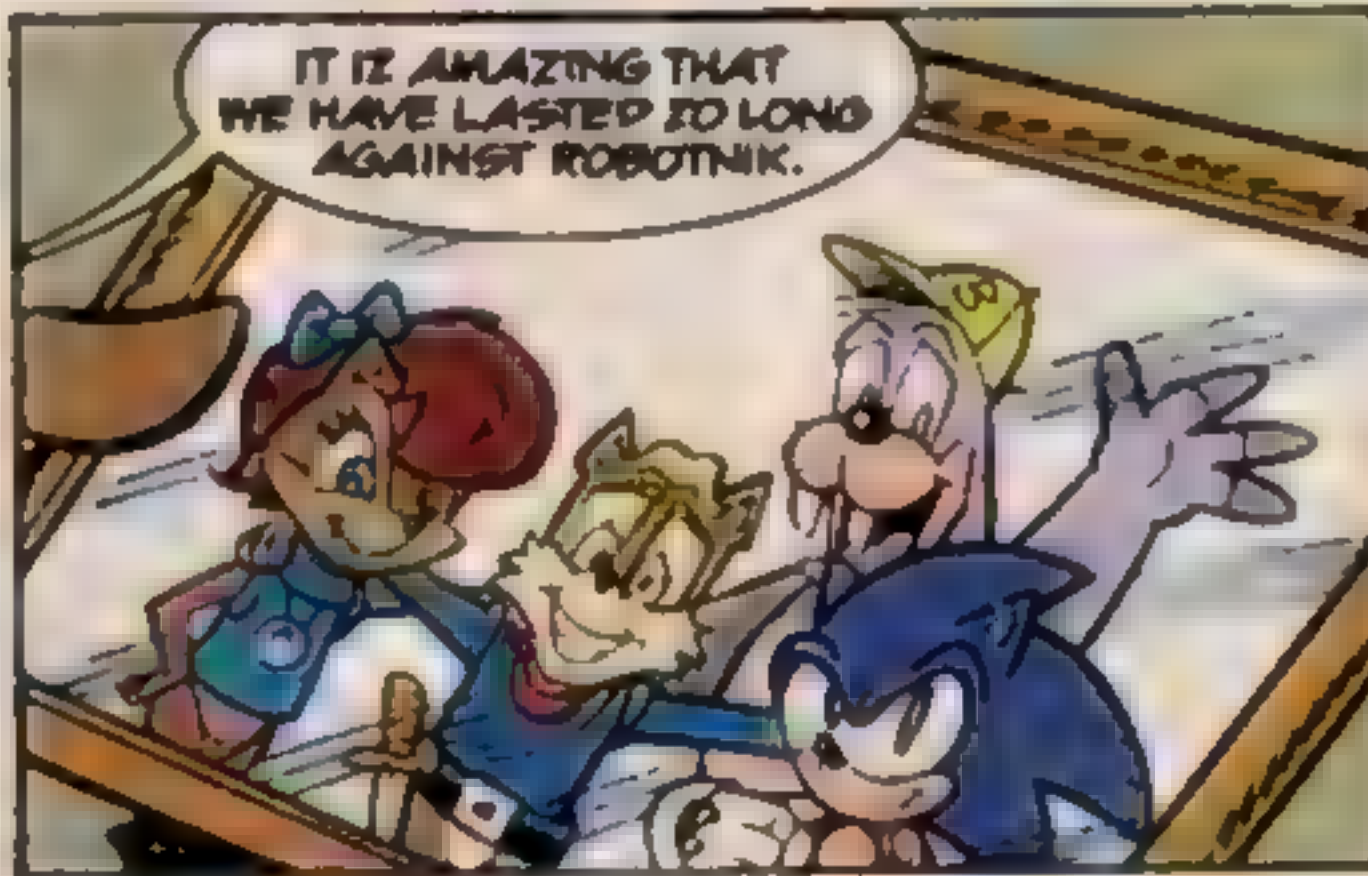
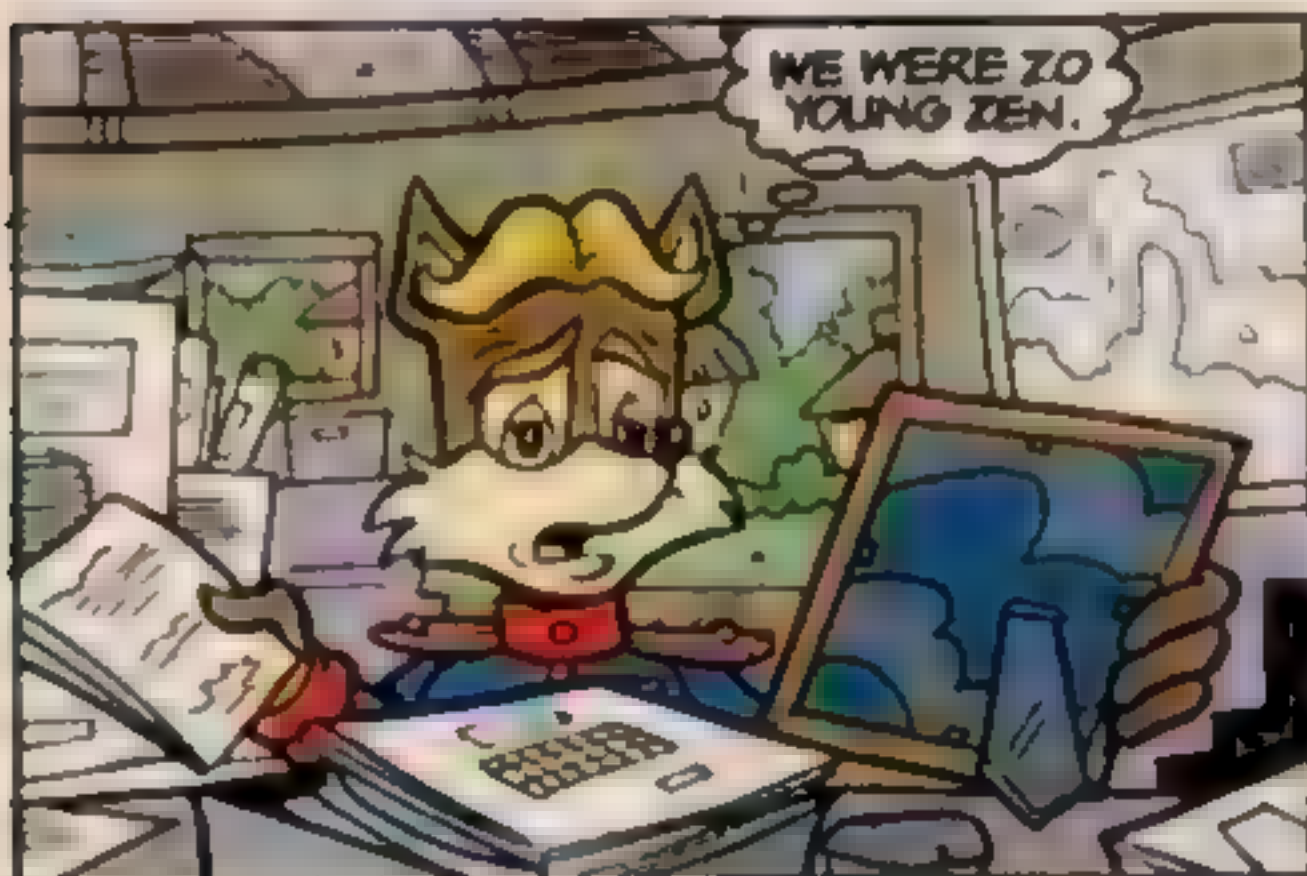
SONIC #49
On sale MAY 1997

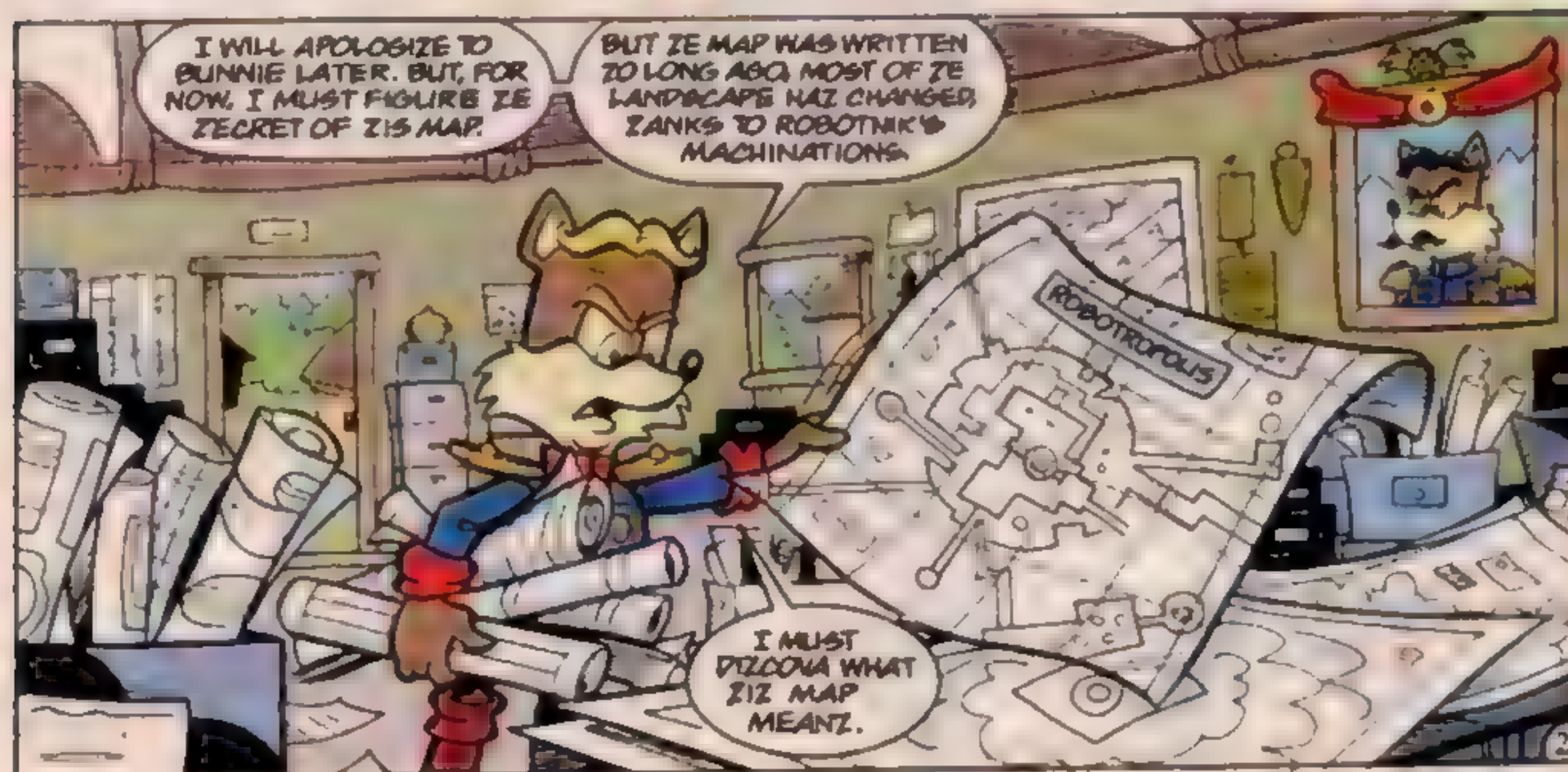
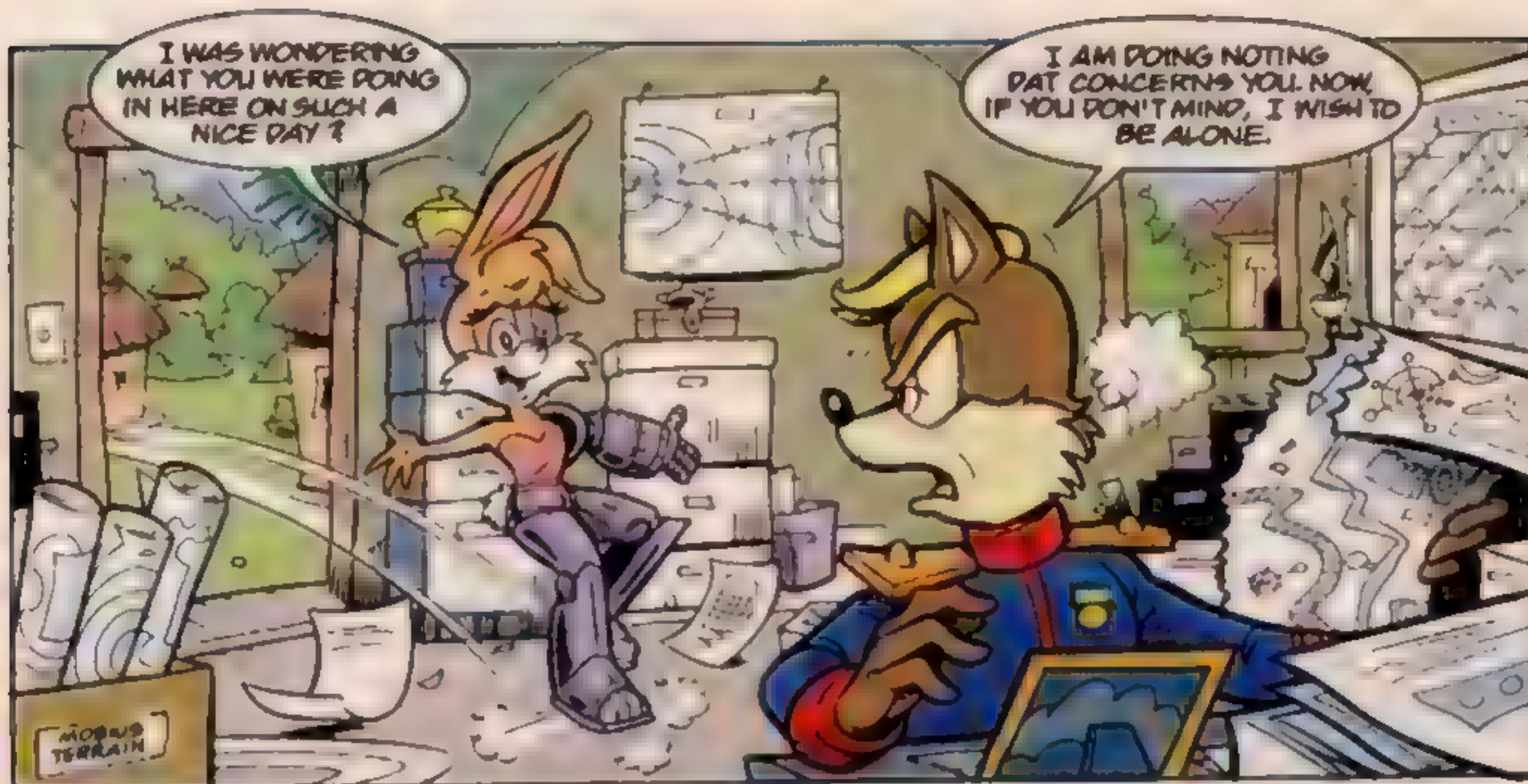
THE FLIGHT OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS IS A NEVER-ENDING ONE. EACH TRIES FINDING A WAY TO STOP ROBOTNIK'S TERRORIZING OF THE FOREST EVERY SINGLE DAY. TODAY IS NO EXCEPTION.

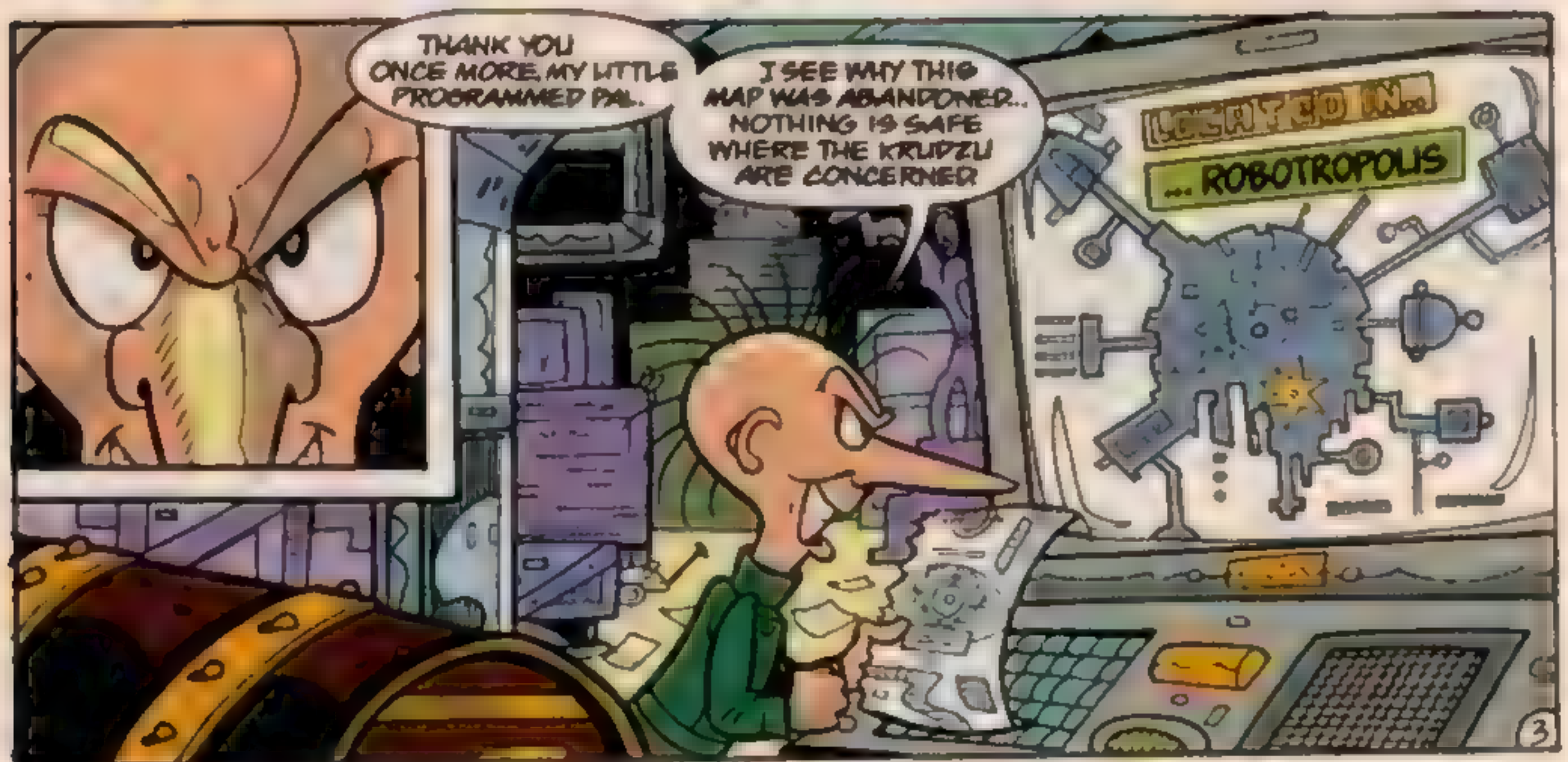
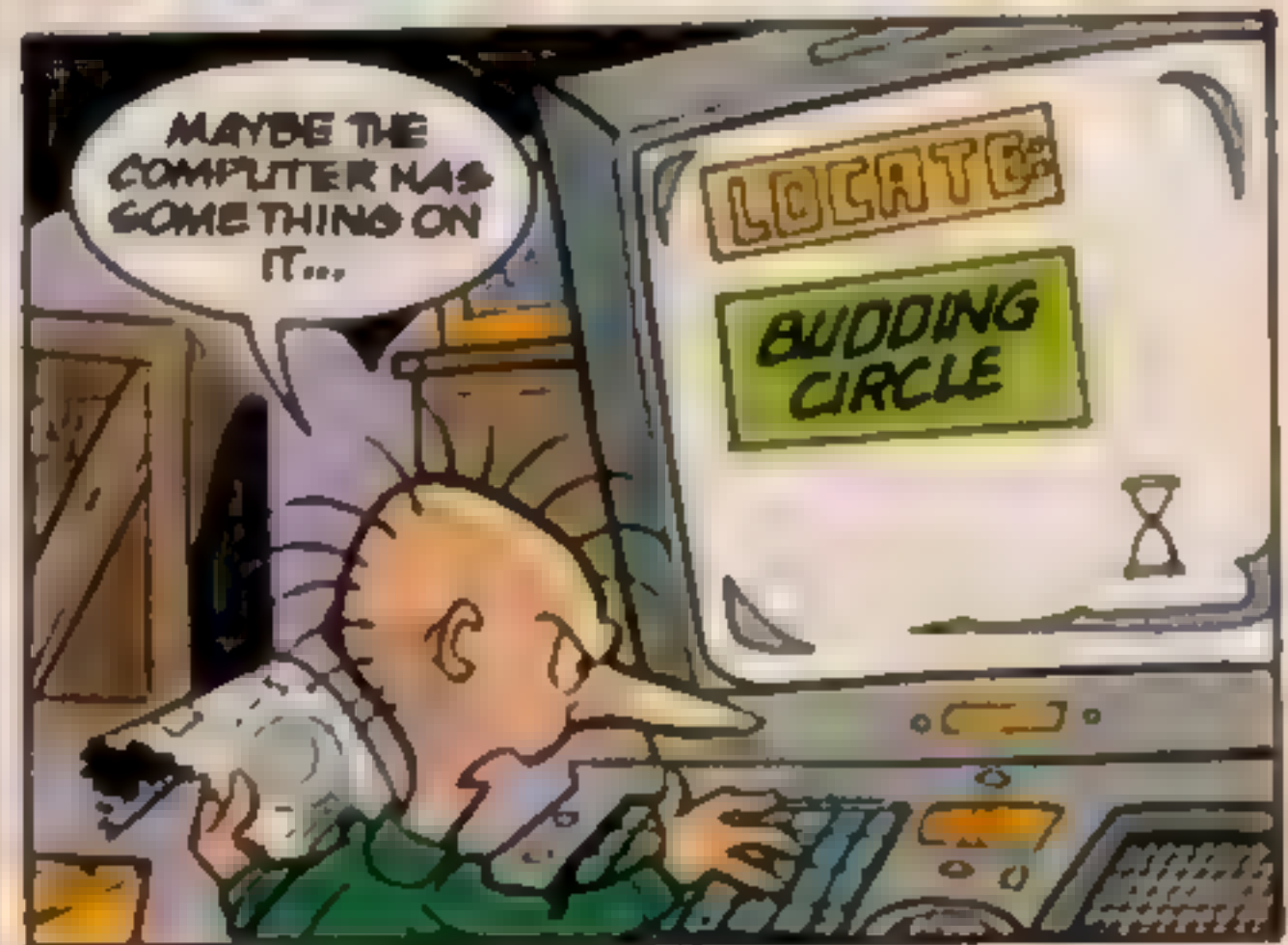
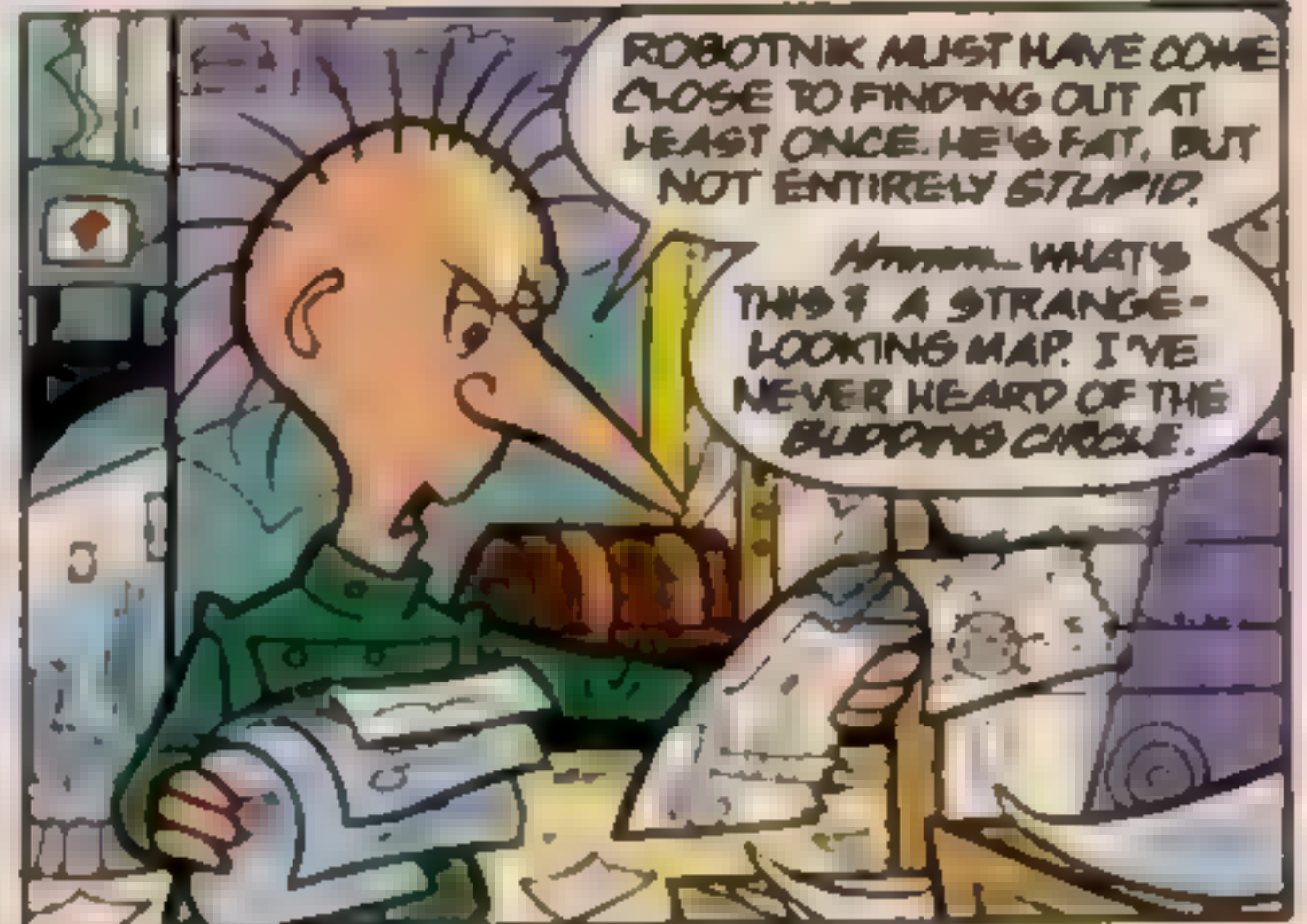
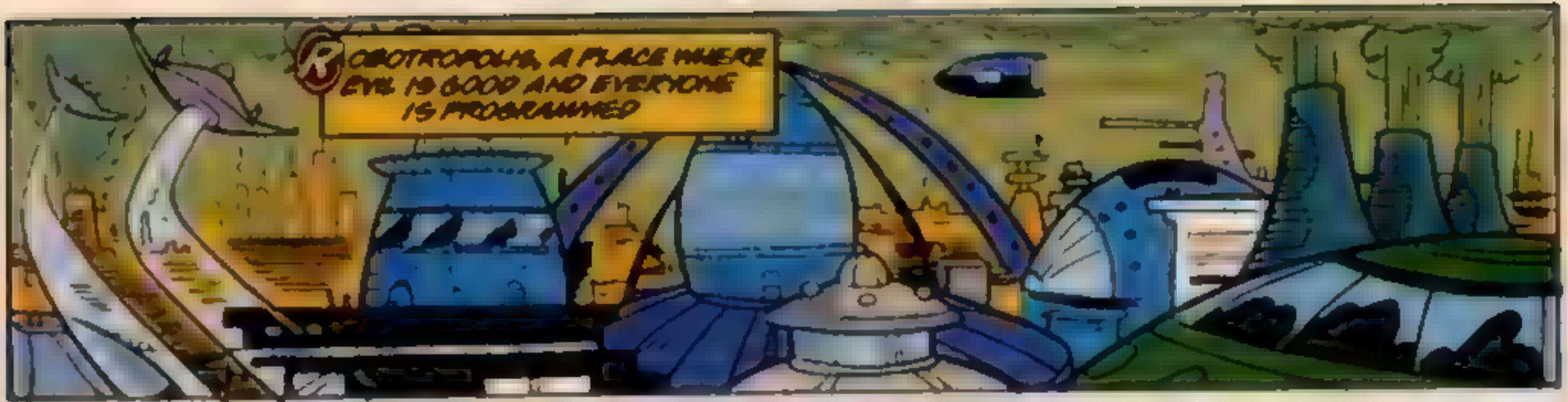
FROM THE
ANTOINE
FILES:

THE MAP

PART ONE







BACK IN KNOTHOLE.

BOTH MAPS HAVE ONE COMPLETE ZIDE, THE X ON THE COMPLETE ZIDE IZ AT A PLACE CALLED BUDDING CIRCLE.

BUDDING CIRCLE WAS A ZECTION IN MOBOTROPOLIS. ROBOTNIK DESTROYED IT WIT HIZ WRETCHED KRUDZU ORGANIC, METALLIC PLANTS THAT GROW FROM ZEEDS.

!! RECOVERED BY THE BOYS WIT BACK IN SONIC!! I-- A FINE-APPOINT NEVER FORGETS!!

!! AGAIN SONIC!! I-- IT G.

ZE GROUND AT BUDDING CIRCLE COULD NOT TAKE THE STRAIN AND COLLAPSED THEM DOWN INTO ZE EARTH.

AFTER DAT ROBOTNIK TRIED USING DEM IN ZE GREAT FOREST, UNTIL WE DISCOVERED THEIR ONLY WEAKNESS-- WATER!! ZE ZE KRUDZU WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN.

MAYBE DE FAT MAN IZ HIDING DOZ HORRID PLANTS DARE ? OR DE MAP TO FIND WHERE HE PUT DE REST OF DE ZEEDS ? OR MAYBE DE MAP LEADS TO DE MOST POWERFUL OF POWER RINGS ?

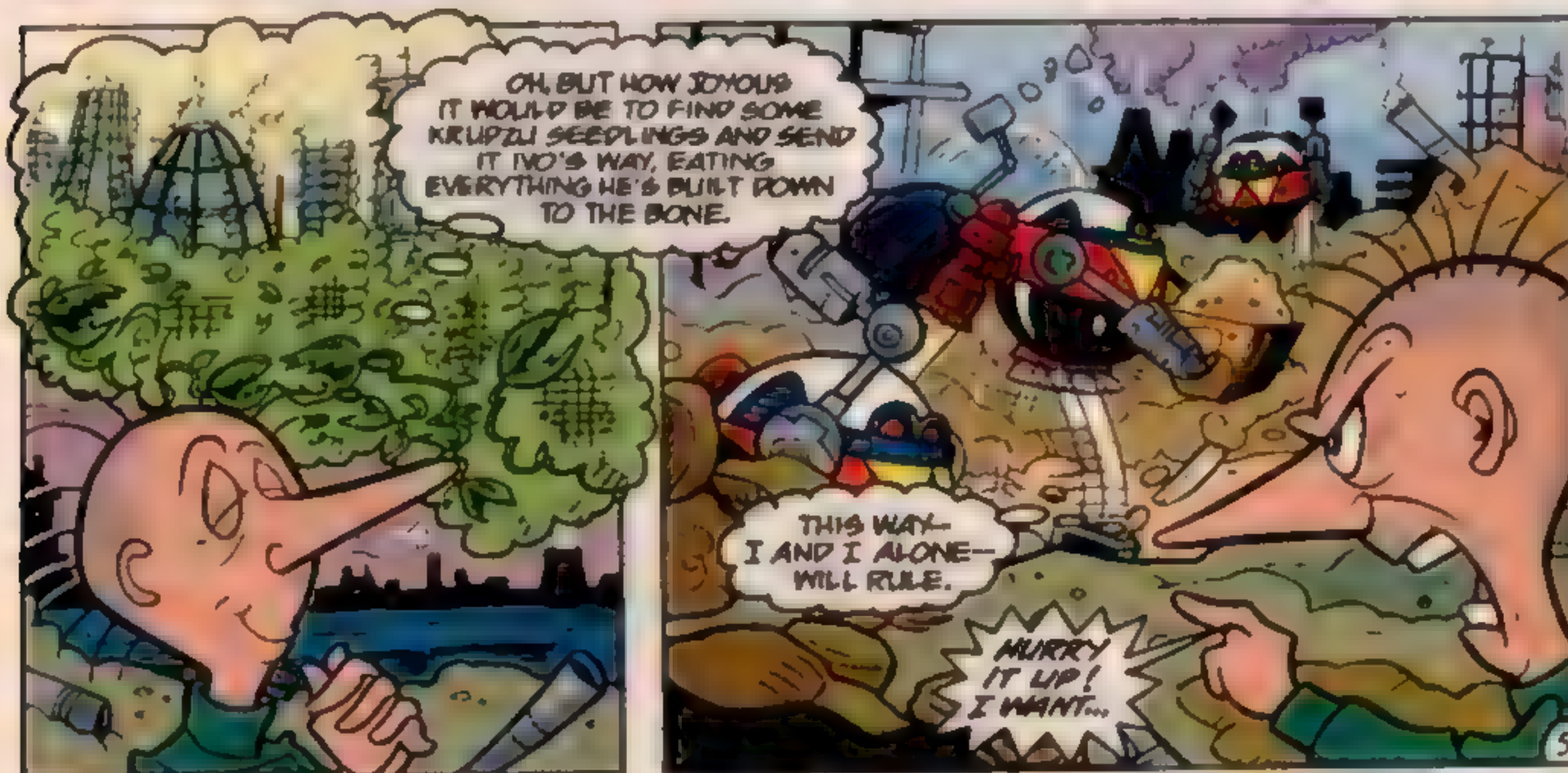
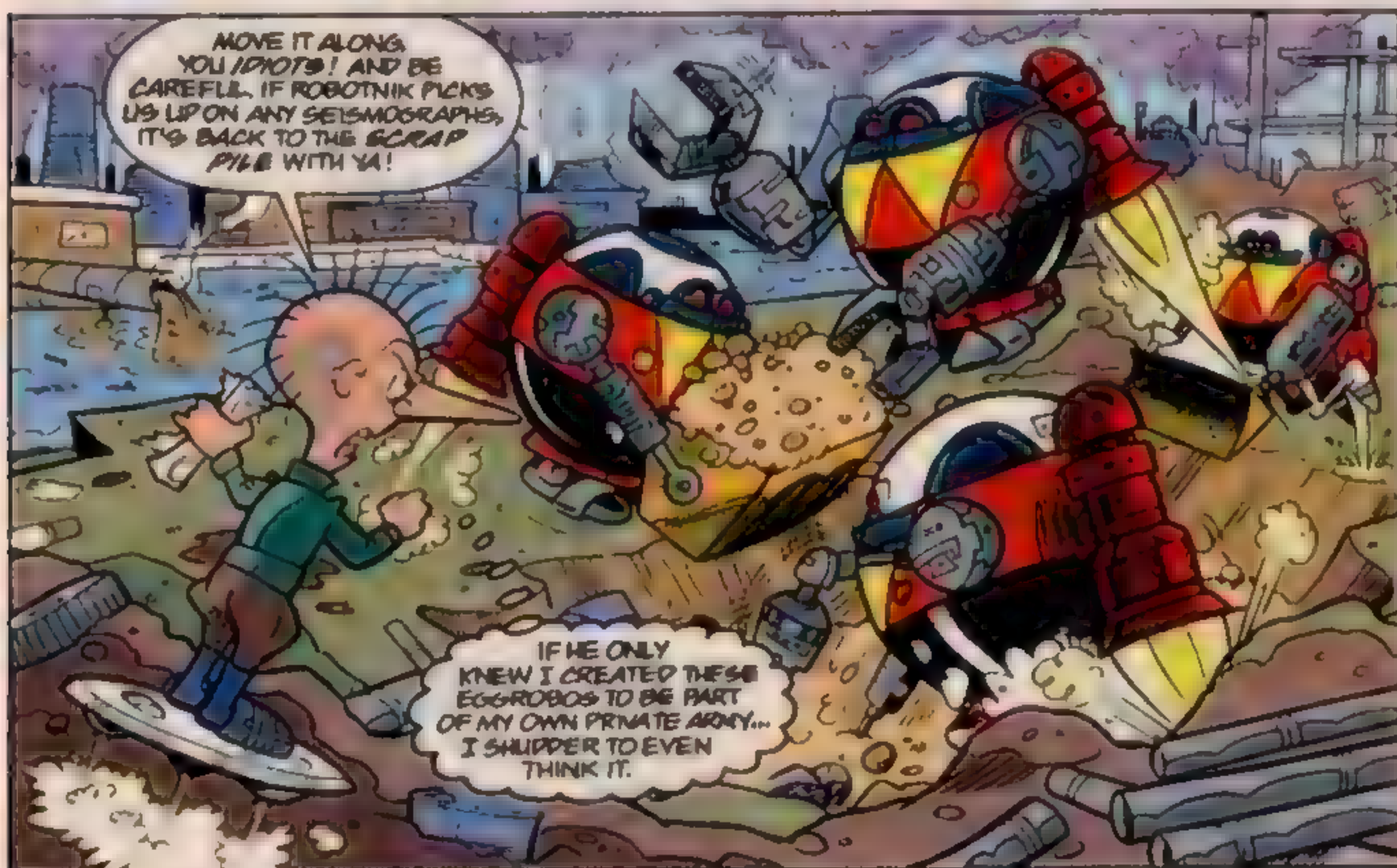
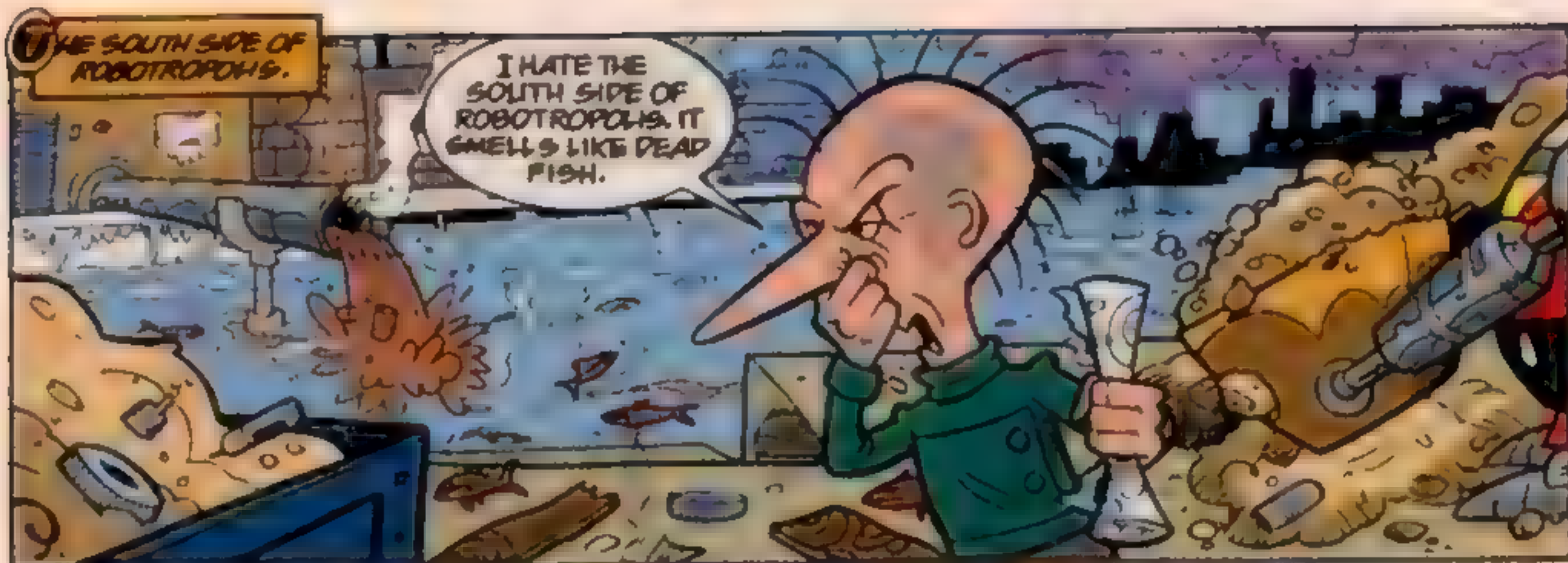
NONE DE LESS, I HAVE COORDINATES DAT WILL PUT ME NEAR ONE MILE OF WHERE BUDDING CIRCLE UZED TO BE. I'M SURE DE OLD WELL IZ NOT DARE, BUT I MUST TRY.

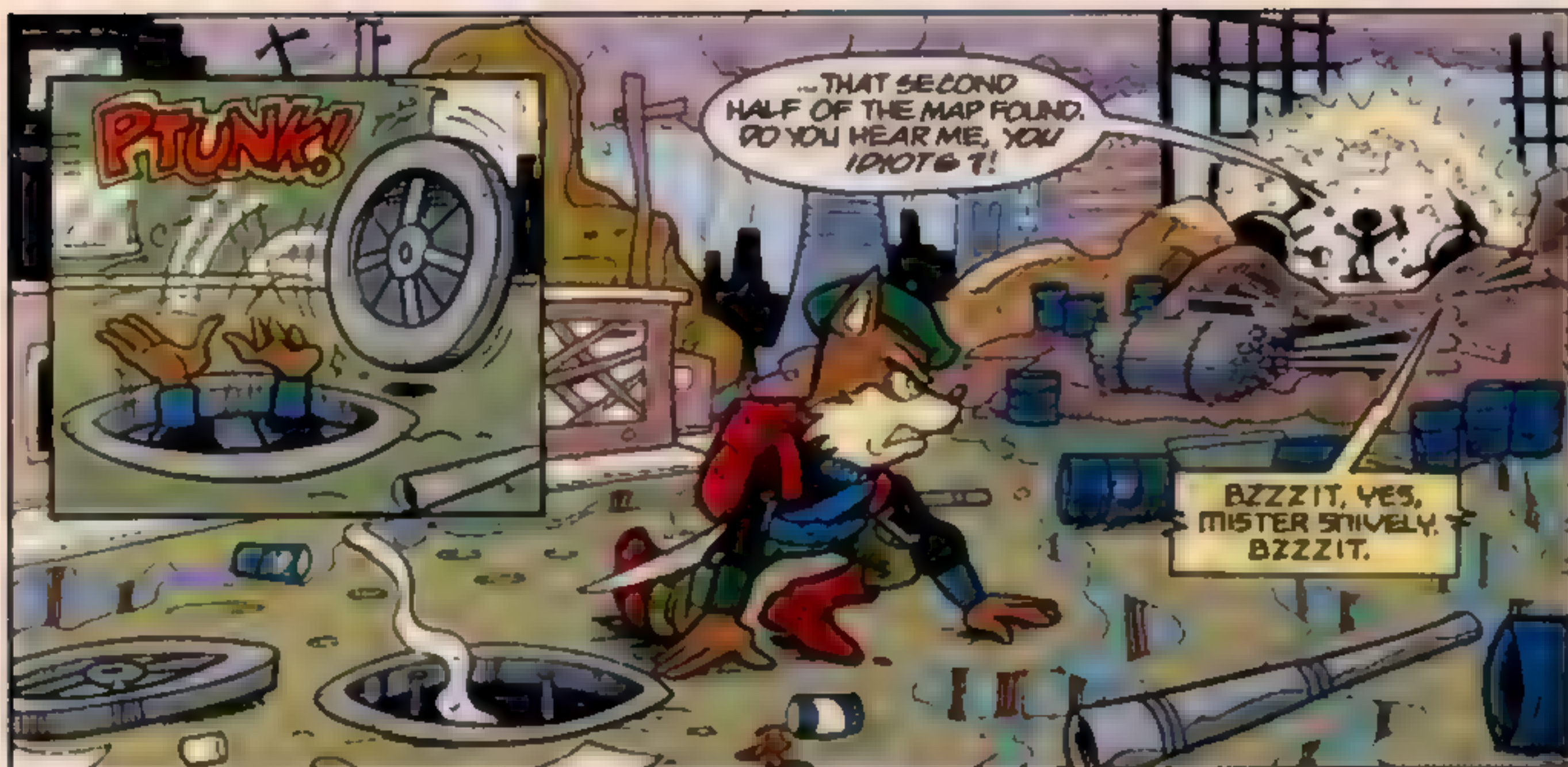
WHAT PROBLEMS COULD I HAVE ? ZE ZOUTH ZIDE OF ROBOTROPOLIS IZ A STINKY ZEWER. NO ONE IN DARE RIGHT MIND WOULD GO DARE.

TUNNEL 38 LEADS STRAIGHT TO ZAT PART OF ZE CITEE.

I MUST TELL SOMEONE. NO, I CANNOT. TO TELL PRINCEZZ ZALLY OR ANYONE ELZE, WOULD MEAN GIVING AN INCOMPLETE REPORT, AND AZ MY FATHER TOLD ME ONCE, 'A REPORT IZ WORT NOTING IF EET IZ INCOMPLETE.'

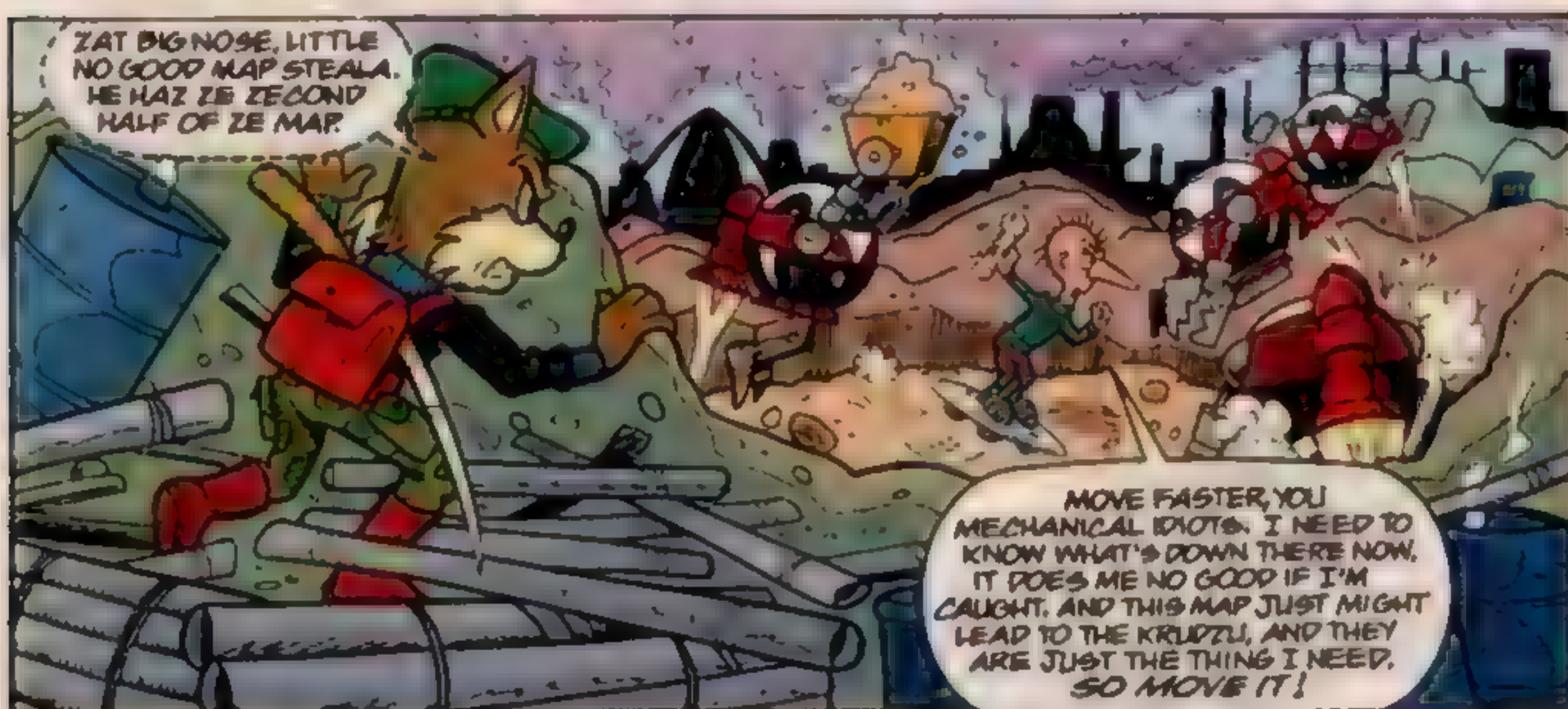
I SHALL DO DIS ON MY OWN.





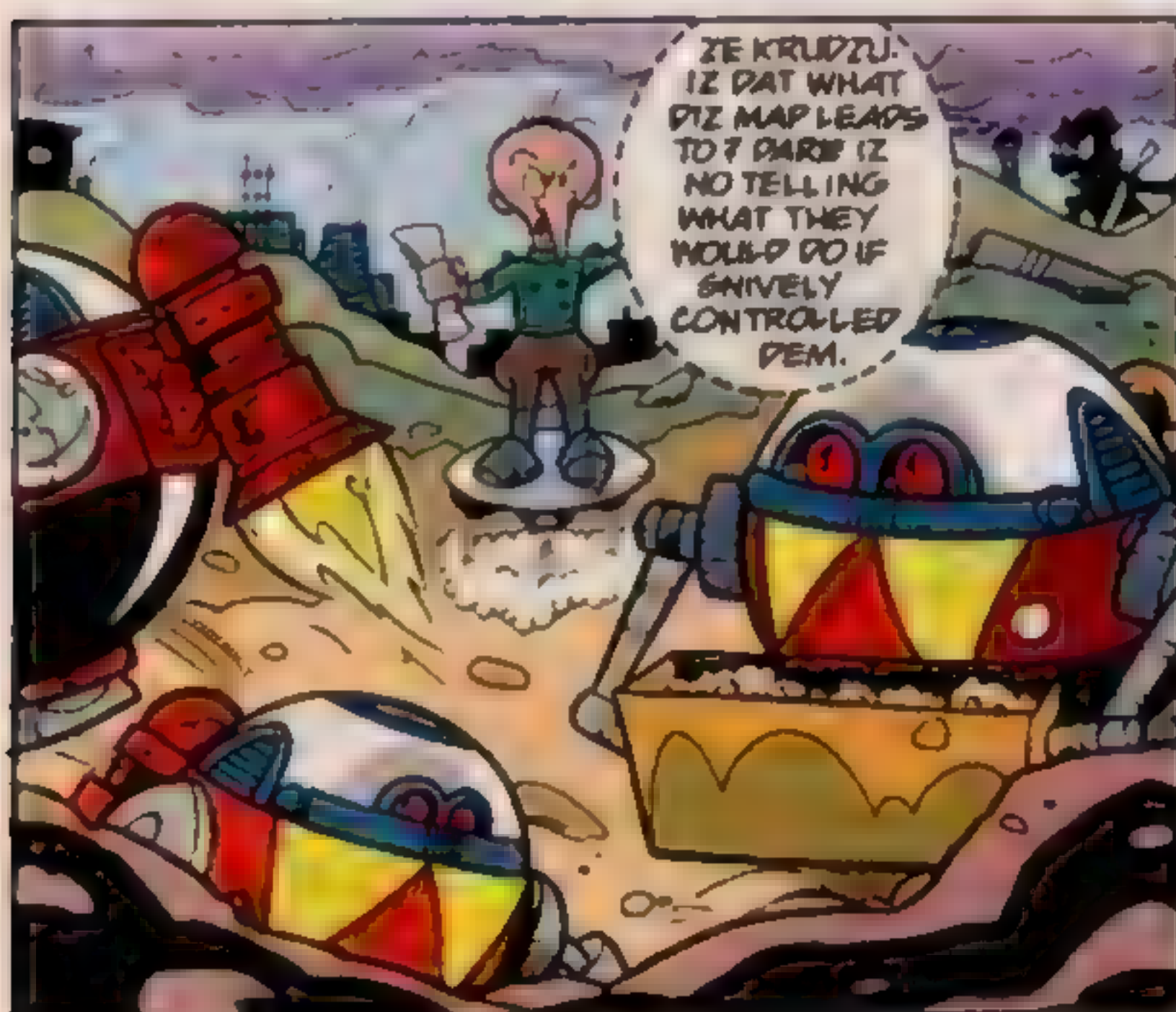
...THAT SECOND
HALF OF THE MAP FOUND.
DO YOU HEAR ME, YOU
IDIOTS ?!

BZZZIT, YES,
MISTER SNIVELY.
BZZZIT.

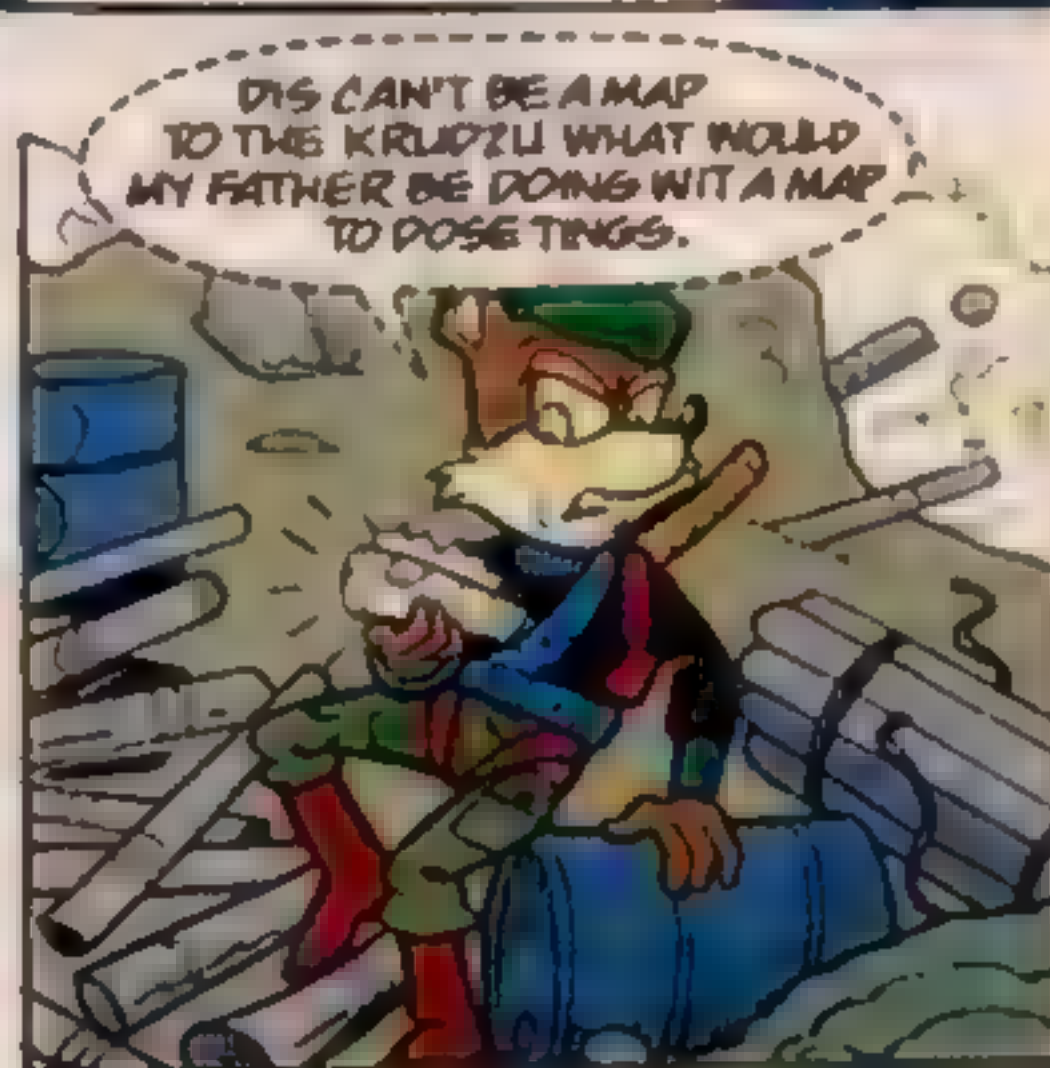


ZAT BIG NOSE, LITTLE
NO GOOD MAP STEALA.
HE HAZ ZE SECOND
HALF OF ZE MAP.

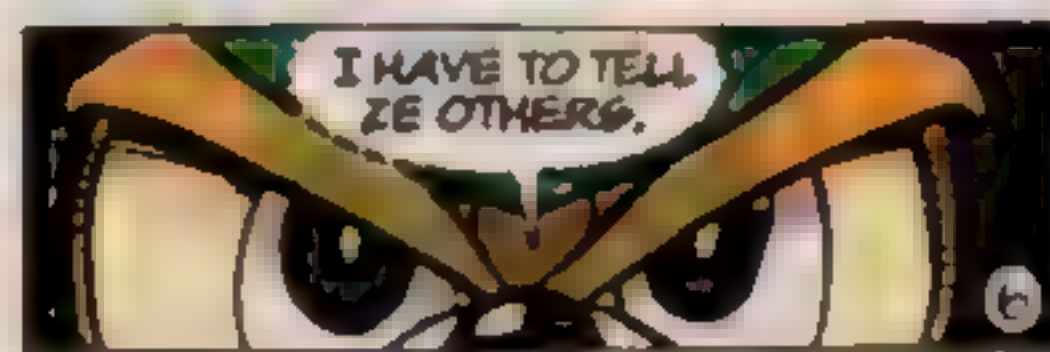
MOVE FASTER, YOU
MECHANICAL IDIOTS. I NEED TO
KNOW WHAT'S DOWN THERE NOW.
IT DOES ME NO GOOD IF I'M
CAUGHT. AND THIS MAP JUST MIGHT
LEAD TO THE KRUDZU, AND THEY
ARE JUST THE THING I NEED.
SO MOVE IT!



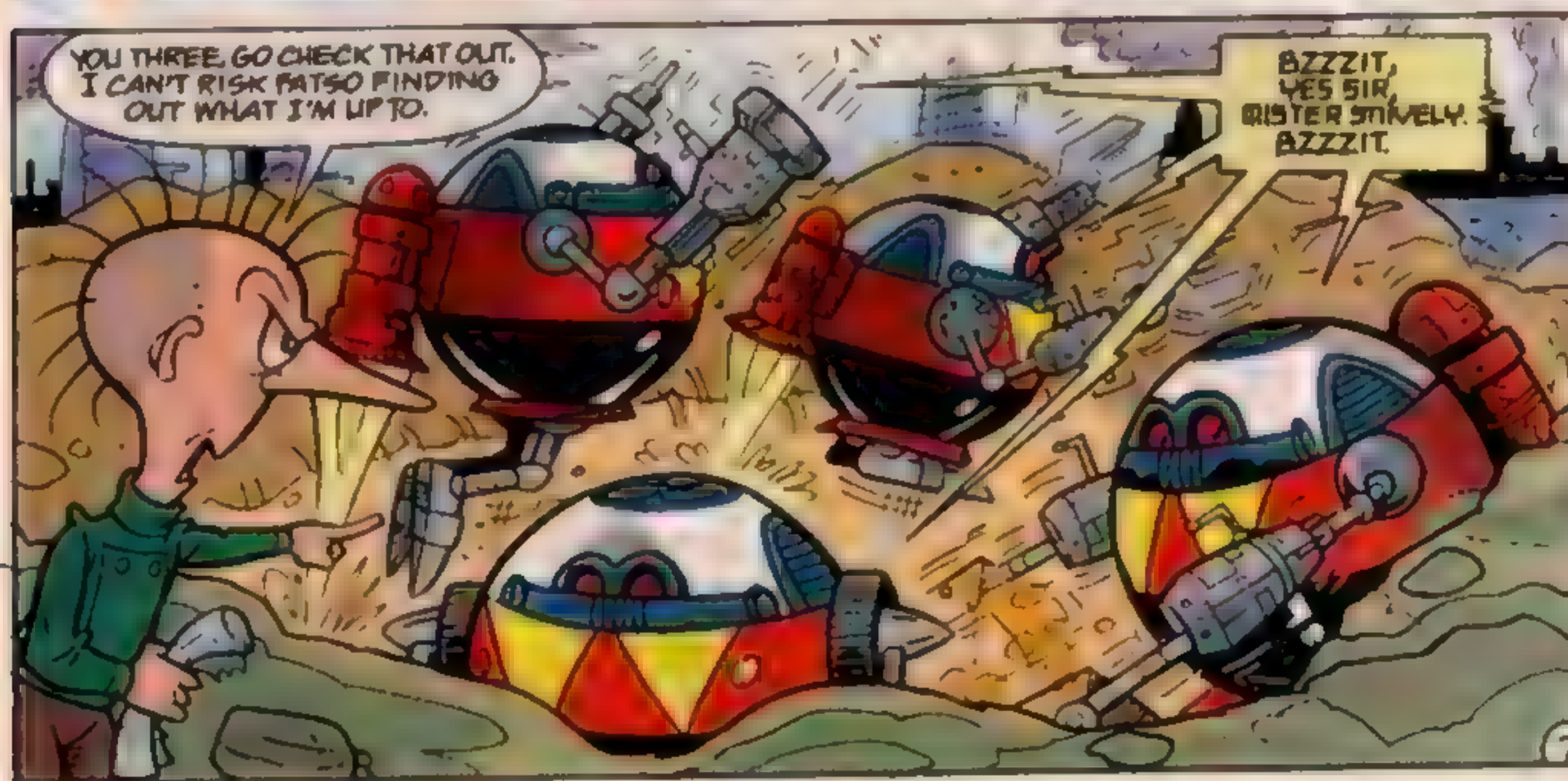
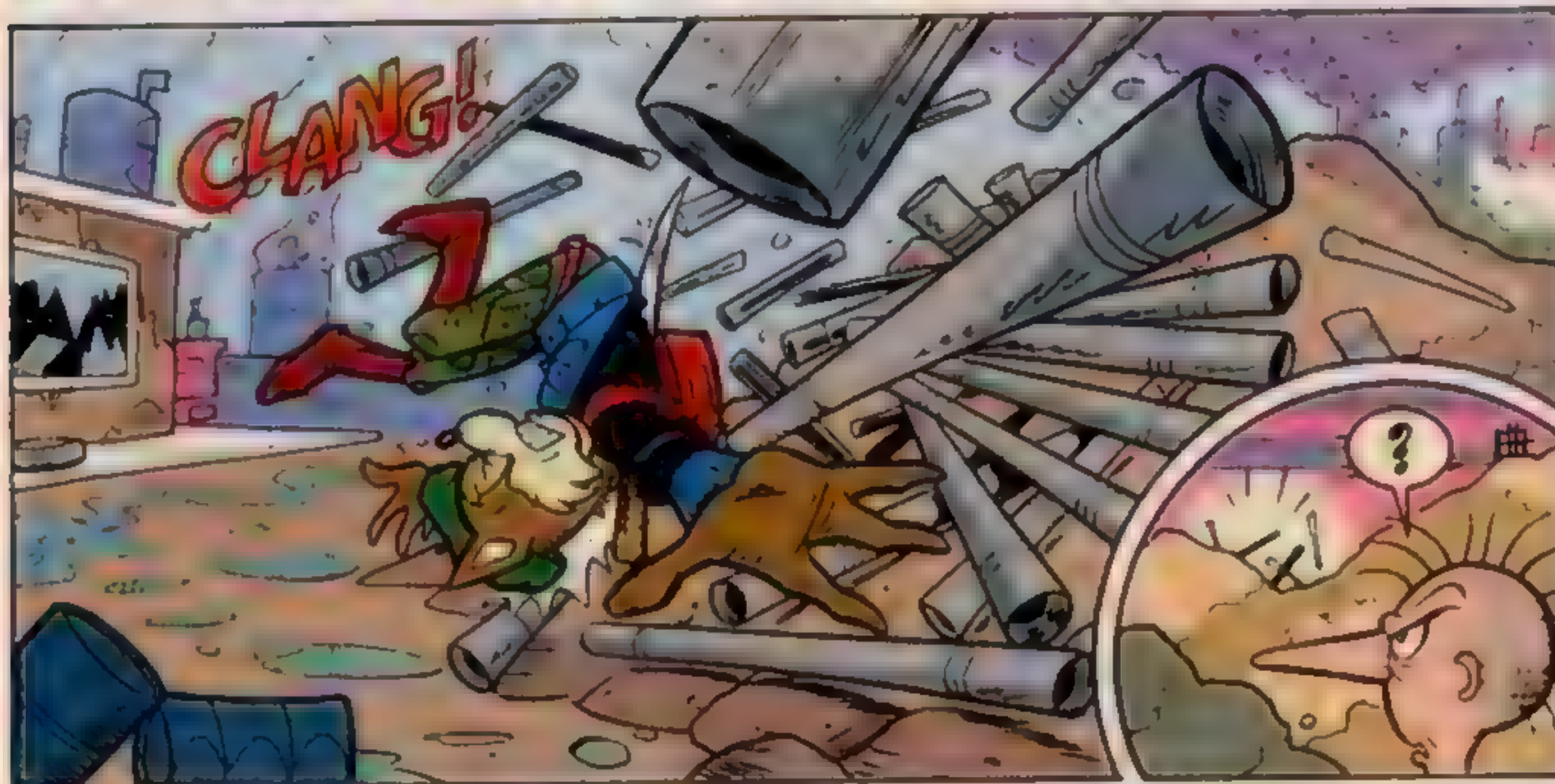
ZE KRUDZU.
IZ DAT WHAT
DIZ MAP LEADS
TO ? DARE IZ
NO TELLING
WHAT THEY
WOULD DO IF
SNIVELY
CONTROLLED
DEM.

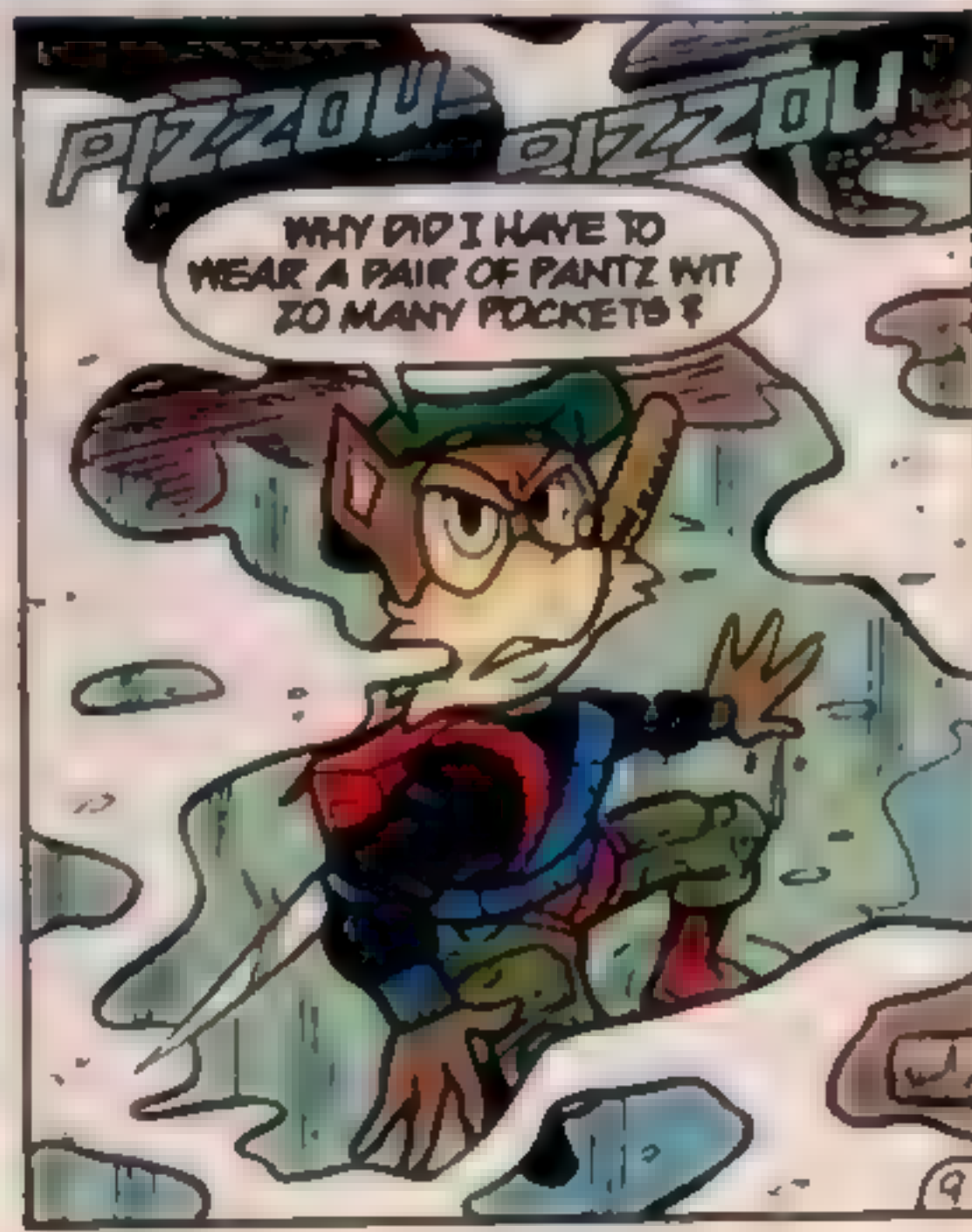
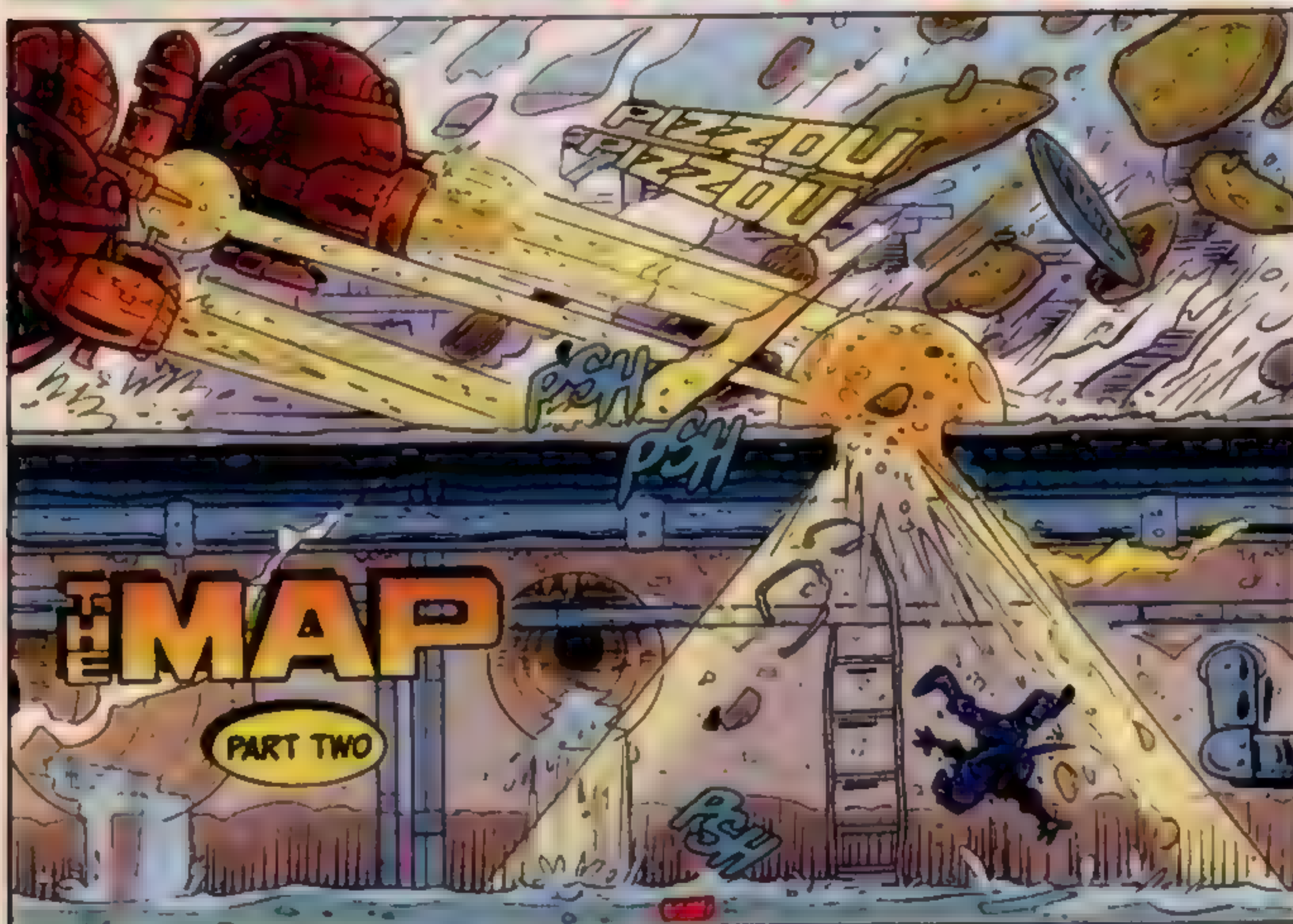


DIZ CAN'T BE A MAP
TO THE KRUDZU WHAT WOULD
MY FATHER BE DOING WIT A MAP
TO DOSE THINGS.



I HAVE TO TELL
ZE OTHERS.







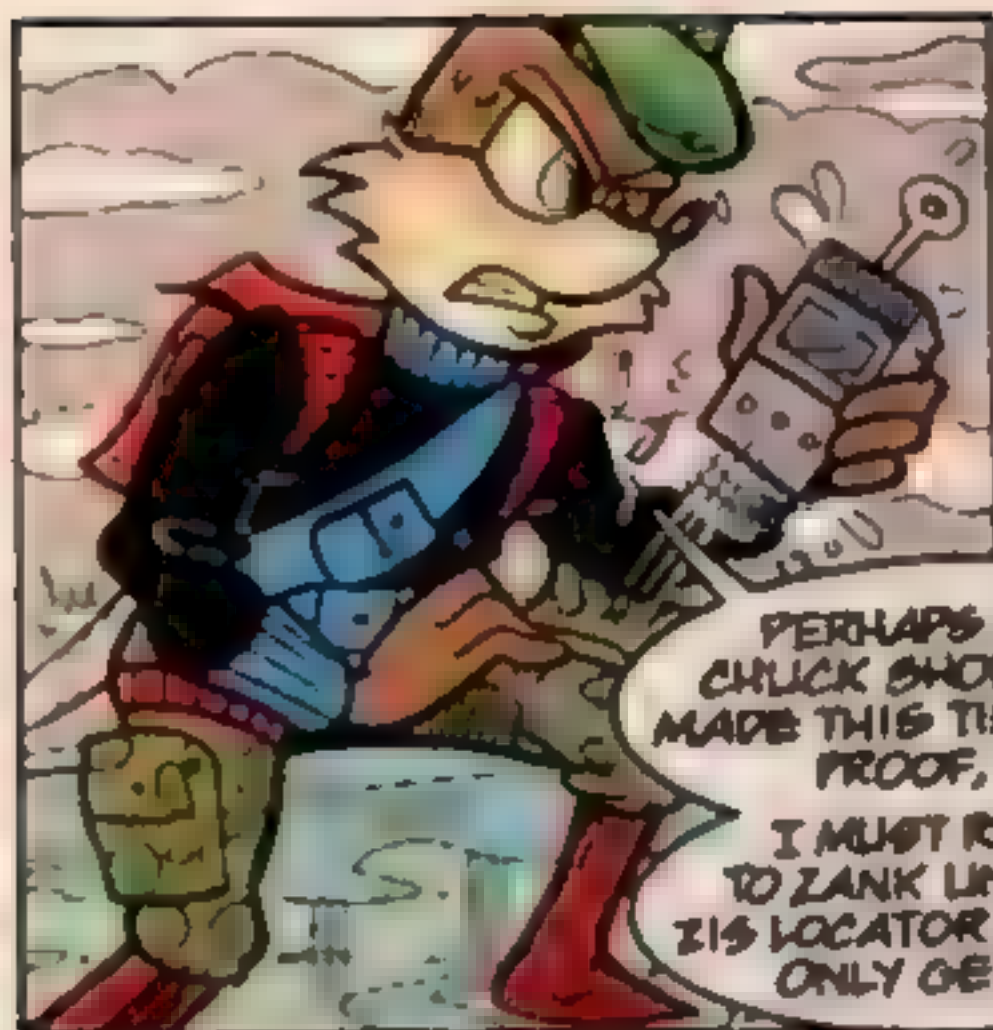
BZZZIT. SEPRON.

DESTROY. BZZZIT.

ZIS IZ
DE END FOR
ME.

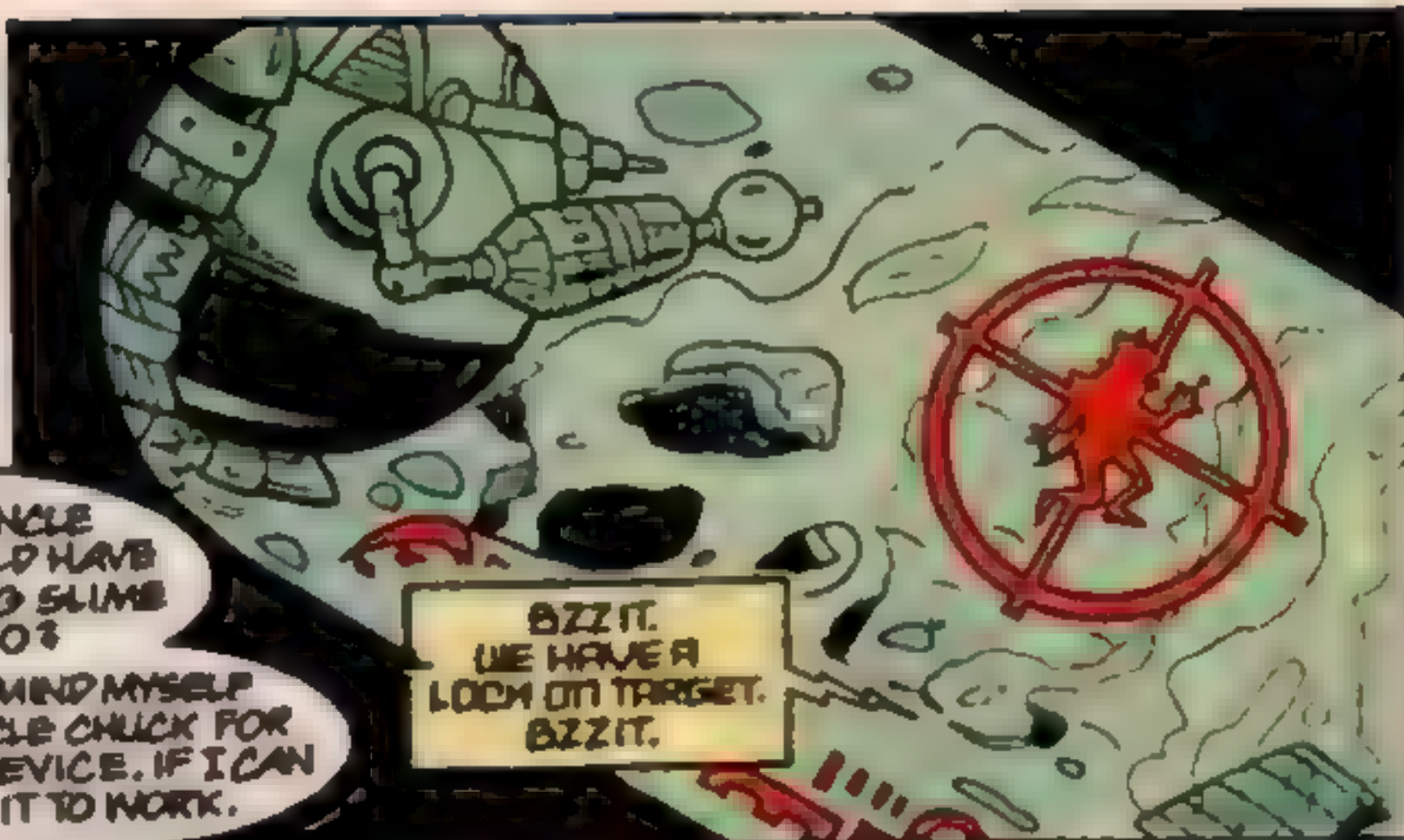
WILL ANTOINE MAKE IT BACK TO KNOTHOLE TO REUNITE HIS FRIENDS, OR HAS TIME RUN OUT FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTER?

END OF
PART ONE



PERHAPS UNCLE CHUCK SHOULD HAVE MADE THIS THING SLIME PROOF, NO?

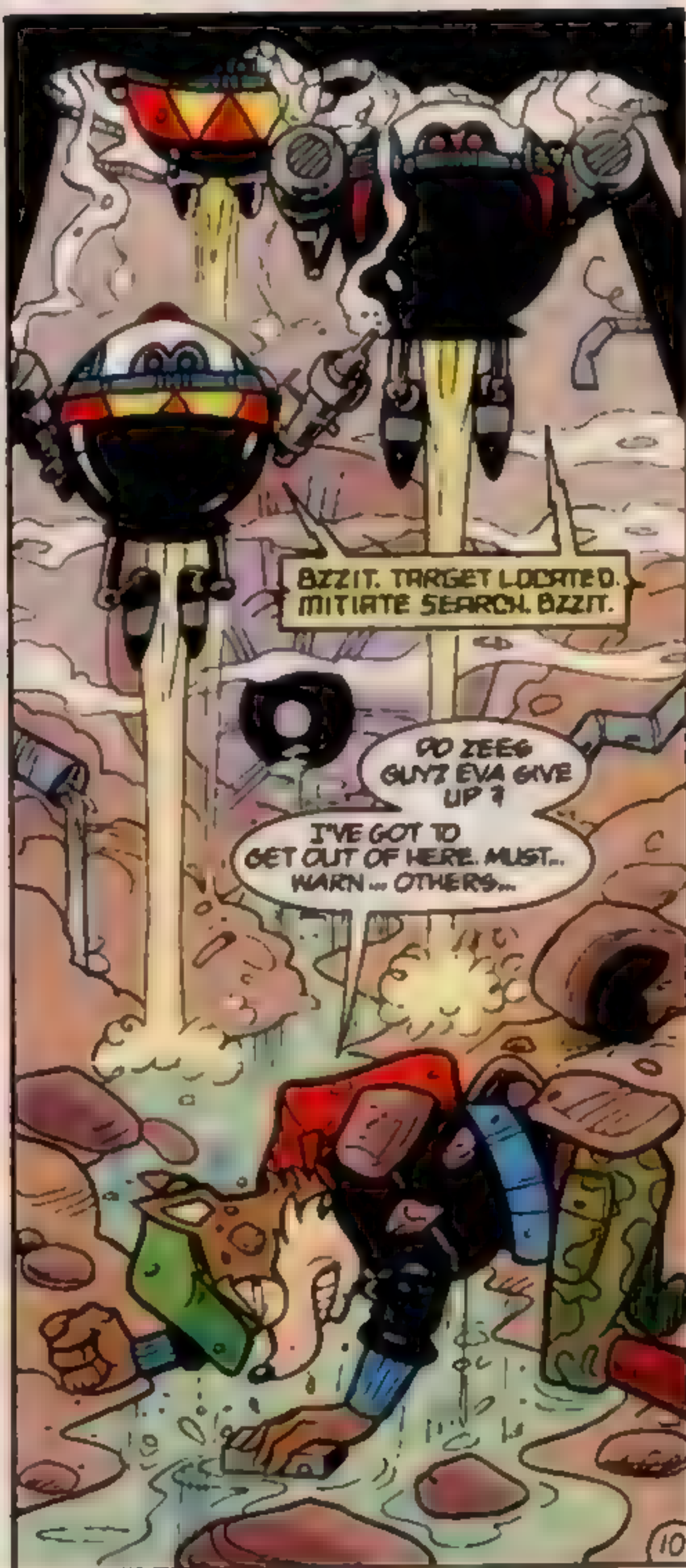
I MUST REMIND MYSELF TO ZANK UNCLE CHUCK FOR HIS LOCATOR DEVICE. IF I CAN ONLY GET IT TO WORK.



BZZIT.
WE HAVE A
LOCK ON TARGET.
BZZIT.



ZONIC WOULD SAY SOMETHING SNAPPY RIGHT NOW, BUT I CAN NO TINK OF ANYTING.



BZZIT. TARGET LOCATED.
INITIATE SEARCH. BZZIT.

DO ZEEG
GUYZ EVA GIVE
UP?

I'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF HERE. MUST...
WARN... OTHERS...

